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# Saipan Tribune

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## POLL RESULTS

Should the Legislature  
override the governor's  
veto of the Fiscal Year  
2009 budget?

Yes **45**

No **24**

Undecided **7**

No opinion **5**

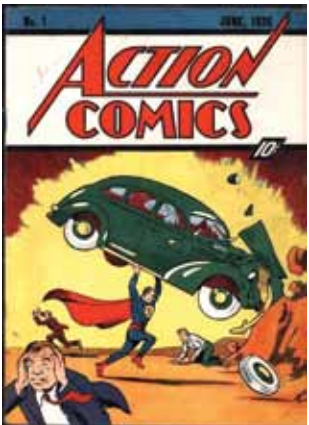
Sunday, March 15, 2009

## INSIDE

### House Arrest

Pakistani authorities placed opposition leader Nawaz Sharif under house arrest Sunday to stop him from taking part in a major anti-government rally, a spokesman said.

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### Gold Mine

A rare copy of the first comic book featuring Superman has sold for \$317,200 in an Internet auction. The previous owner had bought it for less than a buck.

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Without confirmation, acting AG position unlawful—bill. **PAGE 2**

May Rays concert band tops Guam music fest anew. **PAGE 8**

## Guam governor, senators: Delay federalization in CNMI

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho

and the Guam Legislature threw their weight behind the CNMI government's request to delay the implementation of the fed-

eralization transition program on June 1 until additional security measures are in place, and to add China to the visa waiver

program so that the Marianas could avoid "severe economic declines."

March 17, Tuesday, is the

deadline for public comments on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's interim fi-

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## MBA student is Scripps Spelling Bee champion

5 other NMI students in Top 10 of regionals

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

**M**arianas Baptist Academy eighth grader Se Young Hwang won the 2009 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in Guam and advanced to the national event in Washington, D.C. this May.

Hwang, who was expected to arrive on Saipan last night, won after correctly spelling the word "pneumonia."

She is described by MBA principal Ramir H. Trinidad as a hard working student and a wide reader.

"We're very proud of her!" he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that as soon as she was declared champion the good news was relayed to him Saturday noon.

Hwang represented the MBA

See **MBA** on Page 4

## Petition letter supporting McPhetres' retention out

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

A petition calling for Agnes McPhetres' retention on the Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College has been circulating on campus since Friday.

A total of 225 signatures were initially presented to the BOR during its special meeting last Friday.

However, BOR chair Charles

V. Cepeda refused to accept the document citing the board cannot take any action on the matter and that it was not even included in the meeting's agenda.

"The resignation of regent McPhetres is official. And if we will accept it, it will need an action...and the board cannot take action," Cepeda told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the "petition will not help" as the

See **PETITION** on Page 4



McPhetres

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
2009 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee champion Se Young Hwang of Marianas Baptist Academy, right, with second placer Kristine Leynes of Calvary Christian Academy.



### FAMILY FUN DAY

The youngest members of the Te Kanahau Nui Dancers wait for their turn to perform onstage at the Family Fun Day celebration at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe on Saturday. The Division of Youth Services-sponsored event is part of the 2009 Parent Leadership Month activities, which also recognized 33 "exemplary parent leaders" on Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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# Local

## Without confirmation, acting AG position unlawful—bill

By KRISTI EATON  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After months of contention between the Legislature and the administration over Gregory Baka holding the position of acting Attorney General, the Senate has passed a measure clarifying the law that requires Senate confirmation for an individual to hold the position.

Baka succeeded to the position of acting Attorney General on Sept. 28 in the absence of an appointed AG, after Matthew Gregory stepped down from the position. Under the Commonwealth Code, the governor or designee is required to submit the nomination to the Senate, or when applicable,

the House, within 30 days of the person being temporarily appointed. If the Senate, and when applicable, the House, does not confirm the appointment of the person holding the temporary appointed position, the position will terminate.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has not submitted Baka's name to the Senate because, as deputy AG, Baka succeeded to the position of acting AG, Baka earlier said. He noted earlier that his salary remains that of deputy Attorney General, his contractual position.

Senate President Pete Reyes, who authored SB 16-51 SD1, or the "Attorney General Confirmation Act of 2009," said the CNMI can't continue to operate

with an acting Attorney General.

"We cannot continue to operate on an acting capacity AG, using a loophole in the law, because this makes a mockery out of the office, and this is an important office," he said. "It's necessary to fill that position. The constitution calls for it, and the fact that Mr. Gregory Baka continues to occupy that, hiding behind a law that provides for the loophole, is just unnecessary. And I think for the highest law enforcement in the land to search for a loophole in the law in order to perpetuate the acting capacity and retain his deputy position, it is just not right."

All eight Senators present voted in favor of the bill. Sen. Paul Manglona was absent. The

House of Representatives must still vote on the measure.

Under the bill, if the governor or his designee does not submit the individual who has been appointed or is otherwise serving in an acting capacity or who has assumed the title of AG, acting AG, or interim AG within 30 days, the individual cannot serve in those positions for two years. If an individual is nominated, but the Senate does not confirm the person within 90 days from the temporary appointed or assumed position date, the position will become vacant and the person nominated can't be re-nominated during the tenure of the appointing administration. If an individual holds the position of AG, acting AG or interim AG after 90 days without confirmation, they will be breaking the law. Any contracts, purchase orders or timesheets signed after the 90-day period will be null and void.

"At the specific time if no one gets nominated, he would have to take personal liability of all the action that is taken with respect to expenditure funds," Reyes said of the person holding the position of AG, acting AG or interim AG. "That is the only way to force the nomination to the office of the Attorney General."

Members of the Legislature, including Senate president Reyes, have been vocal about their opposition of Baka as acting AG.

"The majority of the members, including myself, believe he is not right for the position," he said. "He is not aggressively pursuing many of the cases that involve the recovery of revenues. He's working at a snail's pace, and he's hiding behind budget constraints. Let's find someone that is more aggressive. Somebody that is willing to take the bull by the horns and begin working, roll up your sleeves and work. Baka is not one of them. We need someone that is willing to work. Not someone that is willing to fill the position and not work."

There are plenty of lawyers the Senate would confirm, Reyes said, referring to the administration's stance that there are few people who can fill the position and be confirmed.

"There are people who can be confirmed," Reyes said. "It's just not one of them. Send a name. Send a name over and let's see."

Baka did not respond to a request for comment for this story, but Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the issue is not just about who the Senate would confirm, but who has a good working re-

lationship with the governor.

"The governor should be given the opportunity to select his own key staff, his own key personnel.... the governor needs to be comfortable with the Attorney General," the press secretary said.

He added that Fitial would have liked to nominate Baka, but the Senate has let it be known that they would not confirm him.

Last month members of the House of Representatives questioned whether the CNMI is legally able to bring the federalization lawsuit against the U.S. government. Although the OAG is required to represent the CNMI in any such lawsuit, the Jenner & Block law firm has been working on behalf of the CNMI. Responding to arguments made by lawyers for the federal government, Baka in February wrote a letter to United States District Judge Paul L. Friedman saying Jenner & Block is authorized to represent the CNMI.

Questions about Baka's position should not affect the lawsuit, the Senate president said.

"The AG's Office is not taking an active role in bringing the case against the federal government anyway. It has no effect at all," he said.

Although there may be some questions, he added.



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# 14 students top NFL finals

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Fourteen students from private and public high schools won gold medals in the National Forensic League finals Saturday and will advance to national competitions in Birmingham Alabama in June this year.

In a 10pm ceremony Saturday night at Marianas High School, contest organizers were happy on the turnout which saw 110 competitors in various events.

Mt. Carmel School junior Ryan Ortizo advanced to the national level and will represent the CNMI in the national dramatic interpretation.

Joining him are Marianas Baptist Academy's Mark Anthony Liban for oratorical speech, MBA's Jessica Lee for Lincoln Douglas Debate, MBA's Kim Kang San for humorous interpretation, MBA's Frank Yeung for international extemporaneous, MBA's Denicio Manglona for local extemporaneous, Grace Christian Academy's Bianca Blanco and

Oilang Maui for duo interpretation, MCS' Hazel Marie Doctor for prose, MCS' John Edward Elenzano for poetry, Calvary Christian Academy's Genesis Ranjo for expository, MBA's Maria Cabrera for commentary, Marianas High School's Joseph Martin for story telling, and MBA's Jesse Sablan for impromptu speaking.

In all, nine local schools competed in the final round of the event. These include MBA, CCA, MCS, GCA, SIS, Eucon, Kagman High School, MHS, and Saipan Southern High School.

This year marked the 10th year of the local event, which had four preliminary rounds before the Saturday final competition and organized by the National Forensic League board, in collaboration with the Public School System.

It will be Ortizo's fifth time to represent the islands in the NFL nationals.

He bagged three gold and silver medal last Saturday but relinquished the two other honors

for the national competition.

"I've been joining since my 7th grade and it's always a good feeling to be in the national group," he said and described the honor as wonderful and relieving.

"It's so relieving and wonderful because after all the rigorous and strenuous competitions, it

**See STUDENTS on Next Page**

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Bianca Blanco, left, and Oilang Maui, right, of Grace Christian Academy in their winning duo interpretation of "Everyone's Gonna Die" during the National Forensics League competition at Marianas High School on Saturday. CNMI Superior Court Judge Mona Manglona and Macoi Aguda were the judges for this particular competition.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas Baptist Academy's Sung Eun An, left, and Omori Manatsu, right, in their duo interpretation of "Who's on First?" in front of CNMI Superior Court Judge Mona Manglona and Macoi Aguda at the National Forensics League competition at Marianas High School on Saturday.

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## PETITION

From Page 1

board's decision was already made.

However, he said the document can be presented to the governor as the sole

appointing authority to the board.

"The petition should go to the governor because he is the only one who can appoint to the position...not the board," he added.

Copies of the petition letter, obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, indicated an at-

tached "Letter of support" from NMC staff, faculty, and students.

"We, the undersigned faculty, staff, students and supporters of NMC wish to express our vote of confidence and support for regent Agnes McPhetres and do hereby

declare that we feel it is in the best interest of the college and community that she remain on the Board of Regents," the statement read.

It added that "As the NMC founder and past president, regent McPhetres has the experience and qualifications that are vital to assist the college as a member of the regents at this critical time."

Cepeda believes that there is a strong possibility that McPhetres will be reappointed to the board.

Honorary faculty regent Frank Sobolewski said that although the board "made the correct decision," he feels that the ultimate concern is not who's in and who's out of the board.

"They may have made the correct decision...but the real question or the ultimate concern here is the credibility and trust within the college especially now that it's going through its critical time of show cause," he said.

Sobolewski said that they're worried on the impact of the "unresolved issues within the college" on the scheduled visit of accreditation team next month.

NMC is required to submit its final report on April 1, and which will be followed by a visit by team members.

"It's our hope that all these matters are cleaned up to the satisfaction of the people of the CNMI before the team comes next month," he added.

The faculty senate president said that it's not yet definite if the petition rejected by the board will go through the governor soon.

"We don't have any plans on what to do next...we still don't know what will happen and it's up to the faculty, staff and parents," he said.

## STUDENTS

From Page 3

finally pays off," he said. Ortizo was also the champion in last week's Sengebau poetry competition sponsored by the Council for the Humanities.

The junior student from MCS vowed to do his best for the CNMI.

"I expect to do my best [individually] and in our CNMI team so we could represent the Marianas and make them proud that they sent us there," he added.

MBA's Dencio Manglona said receiving the honor is really a great feeling for him.

"It feels really great. Whenever I go to the nationals, it gave me such great experiences. I am excited!" he said.

Manglona was part of the CNMI national team two years ago.

"I've met a lot of students [there] who are dedicated to what they do. For me, it was a wonderful learning experience."

Manglona also won silver for impromptu and bronze medal for poetry competitions.

### It's growing and getting better

NFL board chair Harold Easton said last weekend's event marked a significant increase in competitors in the final rounds from last year's 90 to this year's 110.

"It keeps growing and performances are getting better and better every year," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that local delegates to the national events constantly bring honor to the commonwealth.

"CNMI always get a good place at the nationals and we're expecting the same and better results from our students," he said, citing the previous years' recognitions of local delegates.

### No grievance, no action

*Saipan Tribune* learned that no grievance has been filed with the board pertaining to the issues and allegations against the NMC president and the board itself.

"There's no grievance filed as far as the board of regents is concerned," chairman Cepeda said, adding that absence of any formal grievance filed within the board an action will not be rendered.

Cepeda explained that before a grievance reaches the board's attention, it must go through the following process: First, if it's between student and teachers it must be resolved within their level, then to the department chair, dean of the college, president of the college, and finally to the board.

"Those grievances need to be taken care of by these lower levels. The board cannot act on a matter that's within those levels because this may be perceived as board's micromanaging the operation by showing our power," the chairman explained.

Cepeda admitted that even before the regent's resignation, NMC president Carmen Fernandez was already instructed to resolve the management issues.

He emphasized that the board and the college are concerned on the issues majority of which are raised by anonymous senders.

"The board cannot act on anything that is anonymous and it's a major thing right now," he said.

Cepeda admitted that there is no investigation being conducted on the issues raised by McPhetres in her resignation.

Easton said there are approximately 92,000 NFL competitors each year from all states and regions. Inclusion of NMI students in the Top 100 participants in the event is already a major achievement.

NFL also organized the primary grade forensic leagues, math court competitions, thespian contest, national junior forensic league, and the Chamorro/Carolinian language heritage studies events in the CNMI.

Except for the PGFC, the CNMI sends delegates to the national contests every year.

According to Andrew Golden, tab-room coordinator for Western Pacific Region, the "long process" during Saturday's event was a result of the "greater" number of competitors, especially in the prose events where 46 students competed in the final rounds.

There are four practice events every year for the final event.

Golden said preliminary rounds for the debates started last Thursday while Friday was for speech events. The whole-day elimination rounds all occurred last Saturday where they named students in the final sets.

For the prose event alone, Golden said a total of seven rounds were conducted prior to awarding ceremonies.

The event, he added, is patterned after the national format in the states.

Golden pins his high hope for this year's delegates to the national events.

"Hopefully we can get our kids into the semifinals again like we did two years ago," he told *Saipan Tribune*, citing the importance of the event in developing the students' public speaking skills, confidence, and better understanding of the English language and being able to perform the English language.

## MBA

From Page 1

in the regional contest after she was adjudged as her school's spelling bee winner last February.

Since then, Trinidad said, the student has been diligently preparing for the off-island competition.

Hwang is the second regional spelling champion from MBA after Brandon Fejeran a number of years back.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that teacher/coach Gloria Pangelinan and Hwang spent two hours a day to practice for the Guam competition.

The principal disclosed that this weekend's visit to Guam was Hwang's first off-island contest. She will mark another first when she travels to Washington, D.C. come May.

"We're very excited for her because this was her first time in the Guam spelling competition and her first time to travel to the U.S.," Trinidad said, adding that weeks prior to the student's trip she asked him to process her papers

for a foreign visa.

Trinidad believes that this indicates the student's positive attitude.

Hwang, in the recently concluded state mathcounts, emerged as sixth best. Besides being a consistent honor student, she is also active in the National Junior Forensic League and other school activities.

Trinidad is very grateful for the diligence shown by Hwang and her teachers and coaches.

Hwang finished 11 rounds of the grueling competition before she was crowned champion, succeeding Grace Christian Academy's Angela Mamaril, who was eliminated in the competition.

Besides Hwang, five other CNMI students were adjudged top spellers this year after their inclusion to the Top 10 finalists.

They included second placer Kristine Leynes of Calvary Christian Academy, sixth placer Kyle Sandbergen of Tinian Junior/Senior High School, seventh best speller Ann Jeline Manabat of San Vicente Elementary, ninth placer Carla Llana

"However, many of these eligibility requirements in the interim final rule show no clear link to national security issues," Camacho said, citing the fact that nationals of listed countries are expressly prohibited from traveling to a U.S. state.

Camacho said the economic impact of the rule's failure to include China at this time is more certain. He said Chinese and Russian tourists contribute approximately 20 percent to the CNMI's tourism revenues.

"This threshold certainly meets the criteria for significant economic benefit, as mentioned in the rule itself, and provides strong rationale or including China and Russia in the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program, at the earliest possible date," he said.

The Guam governor said China and Russia should be prohibited from participating in the visa waiver program only if they are threats to the United States, and not when they're significantly benefiting the CNMI economy.

Despite asking for the delay, Camacho said the new provision providing for longer stays or up to 45 days for visitors from approved countries would benefit the Guam economy.

### Uncertain

The eventual inclusion of China in the program remains uncertain, and Camacho said the rule does not describe a formal mechanism to either add countries to the program or reinstate countries that have previously been suspended.

"With no set funding in place to accomplish new security measures at CNMI ports, implementation of the rule may prevent consideration of China and Russia in the visa waiver program for an uncertain amount of time," he added.

Guam does not have a substantial number of visitors from mainland China at this time, but the island is committed to attracting visitors from this large market, and China's inclusion in the visa waiver program is a critical

step in this process, Camacho said.

Anthony Gain, general manager of Hyatt Regency Guam, also supports the delay of the start of the transition period.

He said he delay would allow more time for the proper implementation of the significant program and for all individuals and agencies concerned to prepare for the program and install additional security measures needed.

"It is also hoped that this delay would give adequate time for the addition of visitors from...China and Russia to be included under the visa waiver program," he said.

### Priority concerns

The Guam Legislature's request for a 180-day delay in the start of the federalization transition in the CNMI and re-assessment of the visa waiver program is part of a 15-page resolution that presents an agenda of priority concerns for Guam on federal-territorial issues for proposed action to President Obama and to the U.S. Congress.

Resolution 15 also listed 17 priority concerns for Guam, including a need for a political status plebiscite, return of ancestral lands, implementation of war reparations, infrastructure funding, removal of funding caps on Medicaid, and reimbursement of the earned income tax credits paid or owed to Guam tax filers.

The interim final rule exempts only citizens of 12 countries from the U.S. visa requirement: Australia, Brunei, Japan, Malaysia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and Hong Kong.

Earlier, four of the major business and tourism groups on Guam—the Guam Visitors Bureau, the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam, and the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association—separately expressed support to the CNMI's call to delay federalization "until additional security measures are put in place."

## GUAM

From Page 1

nal rule establishing U.S. ports of entry in the CNMI and the establishment of a Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

The Guam governor is the 40th or the last entity to comment on the regulations as of Friday.

Unlike the Guam senators who want a re-assessment of the exclusion of both Russia and China from the visa waiver program, the Guam governor didn't call for the inclusion of Russia in the program.

"The delay in implementation will provide an important window to accomplish security goals while preventing further declines in the CNMI's economy," Camacho told DHS, which published the rule on Jan. 13 pursuant to Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

The delay, according to the Guam governor, will help the Marianas ensure that appropriate measures are in place not just to meet DHS requirements but also to protect the nation and the islands.

By June 1, CNMI immigration will be under federal control unless the start of the transition period is delayed, as called for by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, the CNMI Legislature, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and many other individuals and groups.

Also by June 1, Chinese and Russian tourists will be required to secure a U.S. visa for entry into the CNMI and Guam.

### 'No link to national security issues'

Given Guam's important role in the nation's defense, security concerns associated with the implementation of the visa waiver program are paramount, according to Camacho.

Guam is home to a U.S. military base, and thousands of additional troops will be arriving for the military buildup.



# Saipan has zoning law but lacks manpower to enforce it

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Now that the Saipan zoning law is in place, there's not enough manpower to enforce it and inspect establishments to ensure compliance with requirements.

Henry S. Hofschneider, chairman of the Zoning Board, said the Zoning Office is "seriously understaffed," and this is among the major challenges faced by the agency.

"Without new positions, we have just enough staff to man the office and process application paperwork. We will not be able to conduct field inspection and enforcement to ensure compliance with zoning requirements," Hofschneider said in a Feb. 24 fiscal year 2008 annual report to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and legislative leaders about the Zoning Board.

The office has four staffers, including one who has been

graciously loaned by the Office of the Governor since July to fill the role of clerk.

"She's been invaluable to us. We need to hire this person on a permanent basis," Hofschneider said.

The salary of three of them is 50 percent funded by a federal grant which expires in September.

"We need to keep these staff in place and will submit a request for increased local funding for FY 2010 to replace the federal funding," he added.

The Zoning Board is also looking for a new administrator after zoning administrator Steve Tilley announced he will be leaving the agency because he and his wife will be relocating to the mainland in April.

Tilley has been on Saipan for six years, and has been instrumental in the drafting and implementation of the zoning law, as well as in implementing the regulations.

## Progress

Hofschneider said in the short time that zoning has been in place, Saipan has seen a tangible improvement in the design and location of new development.

Among other things, new adult businesses are restricted to an adult business overlay zone on Middle Road and new poker and auto shops are being kept out of the villages, he said.

Hofschneider also cited as accomplishments the following: Parking lots and road

accesses are safer and more attractive; new buildings are more attractive and pedestrian-friendly; signs are more durable, attractive and proportioned to the buildings; neighborhood and commercial and industrial development are being separated; and subdivisions are being designed with streets that are wide enough for cars to pass.

The Zoning Office also finalized the Saipan Zoning Law and submitted it to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for enactment and signing of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

The office developed a zoning database and a geographic information system, prepared procedures and forms or pro-

cessing zoning permit applications, and conducted many training workshops, and issued press releases and guidance to educate businesses and the public about the law.

It also logged and processed over 1,500 inquiries and permit applications.

Hofschneider said no funds were used for honorarium during FY 2008. "Zoning board members contributed many hours of their time in the spirit of working toward the betterment of our community," he said.

Last week, the Zoning Office held training sessions about the Saipan Zoning Law for developers, the general public, surveyors, and others involved in subdividing property.

## New law distributed \$42,000 to Tinian

By KRISTI EATON  
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial has signed into law a second senatorial district bill that appropriates \$42,000 collected from pachinko slot machine and poker machine license fees.

Tinian Local Law 16-7 distributes \$12,000 to monthly subsistence allowance for dialysis, cancer, multiple sclerosis, post cervical, and vascular ac-

cident patients from Tinian.

The other \$30,000 will go for operating of the Tinian Legislative delegation under the Senate leadership.



Fitial

The Finance Secretary will prepare and disburse the funds going to the health patients, while the Senate president along with the members of the Tin-

ian Legislative delegation will have expenditure authority for the \$30,000.

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## Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana Ofisinan I Gubietno Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

### NOTISIAN MAPROPONE POT ATKILON TÂNO' PUPBLIKU

Kinonsiste ni Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, I Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku man nâna'i'i notisia pot I intension na para u ma'atkila I tano' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana. Maseha háyi na petsona gi pupbliku henerát siha muna halom opinion, infotmasion, kinontran testimonio pot para u kuentâyi I propositun I Kontrátan Atkilon. Ni maprobeniyi más ginen I Lai Pupbliku 15-2, manisísita para u mapupblika I man impotânte na infotmasion gi sigente:

- I tano' pupbliku ni ma'atkila madeskribi kumo Sitio Numiro 190 E 01 a konsiste kâsi 4,809 square meters menos osino más, ni gaige gi Lower Base giya Saipan. Kopian I lugât I sitio gaige gi Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku para u ma'ina.
- I para u atkila I Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., un koporasion giya CNMI. I Direktot I Kuetpon I koporasion I man sigente: si Liberato C. Legaspi, Marie Christine T. Legaspi, Alejo C. Legaspi, yan si Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.  
  
I presidente I koporasion si Liberato C. Legaspi. I segundon I presidete si Marie Christine T. Legaspi. I sekretário si Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi. I tresurerun si Alejo C. Legaspi.
- Si Siñot Liberato C. Legaspi yan si Siñot Noel Masongsong a negosio I kontrâta para I mapropone na atkilon.
- I para u fanatkila debi u na'setbi i tano' solamenti para u na'guaha' fasilidât para muna'hanao kâtga siha.  
  
I tiempion I mapropositu na Kontrátan Atkilon bente-singko años (25 yrs.), gai' chánsa para u ekstiende para talo kinse años (15 yrs.).  
  
I mapropositu na âpas atkilon gi sakkan durânten I tiempo sigun I mapega na presiu pot I baliña I lugât.
- I kabâles na kopian I Kontrátan Atkilon siha u machule' gi Ofisinan I Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku, ni gaige gi mina dos na bibienda gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, giya Saipan, mina dos bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building giya Luta, fine'nina na bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building giya Tinian.
- Ti maresibe' otro na klâsen propositu ni I Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku ni para u ma'atkila I tano' giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- I Sekretário gi Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku siempre a aksepta tinige' opinion, mensâhen kinontra yan testimonio osino otro siha na propositu ginen I man enteresao na petsona gi pat ântes di Matso 23, 2009 gi Ofisinan I Dipattamenton I Tano' Pupbliku ni gaige giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

### ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong ischil mángámangiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngali milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap ekke bwáári Lot No.190 E 01, eyoor faawu sangaras walabwughúw tiwoow (4,809 square meters), elap me ngäre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor llól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngäre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., CNMI corporation. Schóóy mwiisch mellol Corporation nge Liberato C. Legaspi, Marie Christine T. Legaspi, Alejo C. Legaspi, me Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.  
  
Schóóy assamwool nge Liberato C. Legaspi, Vice President nge Marie Christine T. Legaspi, sekkretario nge Alejo C. Legaspi, treasurer nge Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.
- Schóól aweewel akkilon nge Mr. Liberato C. Legaspi me Mr. Noel C. Masongsong.
- Schóóy akkilon ebwe yáali bwuley reel leliyel ammwelil kkaragha schagh.  
  
Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon ebwe ruweigh me limwoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 years).  
  
Pomwol akkilon ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) fengal me milikka re ayuuw mellol faluw.
- Emmwel óubwe bwughil tilighial akkilon mellól bwulasiyool ammwelil falúweer toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngäre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo akkáaw pomwol akkilon yeel me Lower Base, Saipan.  
  
Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ebwe bwughil aweewe kkaal, aingiingil, mereer amweyút aramas mmwal schagh Mááilap (March) 23, 2009 mellól Depattamentool Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me Tchúlúyól..

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 190 E 01, containing an area of approximately 4,809 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- The prospective lessee is Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc., a CNMI corporation. The board of directors of the corporation are Liberato C. Legaspi, Marie Christine T. Legaspi, Alejo C. Legaspi, and Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi.  
  
The President of the corporation is Liberato C. Legaspi. The vice president is Marie Christine T. Legaspi. The secretary is Lawrence Lemuel T. Legaspi. The Treasurer is Alejo C. Legaspi.
- The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Liberato C. Legaspi and Mr. Noel C. Masongsong.
- The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a freight forwarding facility.  
  
The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.  
  
The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property including existing structures.
- A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
- The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before March 23, 2009 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

# DPW and DPH now working to equip Rota hemodialysis center

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Construction at the Rota hemodialysis center is expected to be completed in two months, giving the Department of Public Works and the Department of Public Health ample time to work on procuring collateral equipment for the facility.

In June 2008, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced that the project will be completed within 270 days or by March 10, 2009, but the completion date was pushed back.

Public Works secretary Diego B. Songsong said procurement of hemodialysis machines, beds and other materials to equip the center was not part of the initial discussion on the project last year.

"Right now, we are working with DPH to furnish the center. We are working with DPH, because we want to make sure that the right type of equipment needed for the facility will be bought. For example, we want to make sure the hemodialysis equipment meet Medicaid standards. After identifying the equipment, we will work on identifying source of funding and we will meet with members of the Rota Legislative Delegation for that," Songsong told *Saipan Tribune*.

The DPW secretary said project construction, which costs close to \$1 million, is expected to be completed by contractor Pacific Cooperation Ltd. in two months.

Adjoined to the existing Rota Health Center, the existing RHC

Cafeteria will be converted into the new hemodialysis center.

Construction of the new facility includes utilities separate from the Rota Health Center, including power back-up generator, an independent water supply, and a reverse osmosis system.

The facility will have enough capacity to accommodate the current clients of Rota, while providing for the project's future expansion. In the original plan announced by the Fitial administration, the

project will be furnished with five hemodialysis stations, with one unit serving as an isolation care station complete with a mechanical lifter capable of transporting bed-ridden patients to the upper level on a stretcher or wheel chair.

"Even if it's completed in two months, it still cannot be occupied without the collateral equipment. Hopefully we'd be able to equip it in time for con-

struction completion," Songsong added.

Sen. Paul Manglona, R-Rota, wrote to Songsong on March 4 to follow up on the status of the collateral equipment for the Rota hemodialysis project.

Manglona said it is "absolutely critical that we procure and deliver the necessary collateral equipment before the project completion date."

The senator added that it is critical for DPW and DPH to coordinate work to "avoid further delays and make possible the opening of this long overdue facility."

Opening the center, according to Manglona, will make it possible to "begin to bring back home to Rota our hemodialysis patients on Saipan to be with their families."

The Rota hemodialysis project has been in the planning stage since 2005. Funding problems had kept the project on hold until the Commonwealth Development Authority issued \$1.5 million in proceeds from the CNMI's capital improvement bond last year.

## Fitial: Tenorio not loyal

By **KRISTI EATON**  
kristi\_eaton@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he fired Lino P. Tenorio from his position as commissioner of the Department of Corrections because Tenorio was not loyal to him.

"I want my cabinet to be loyal because I told him I would choose people who would help me run this administration who are qualified, competent, and

loyal, so when he decided to become not loyal, then I gave him my respect," Fitial said.

Tenorio intends to run for mayor as an independent. Fitial is a member of the Covenant party.

"So it was just a gesture of respecting his decision," Fitial said of letting Tenorio go.

Tenorio could not be reached for comment.

Capt. Dolores San Nicolas will act as acting commissioner for the DOC.



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## ON ARTICLE 12 DEBATE

# Dilution of bloodline worries NMC students

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A number of local students at Northern Marianas College are worried about the impact of Article 12 and their opportunity to purchase land in the CNMI.

In a debate in the Current Issues class Thursday night, advocates to repeal the law argued that Article 12 is unfair and bias and denies them the chance of owning or buying land in the Commonwealth.

Ivan Mereb, president of the Associated Students of NMC, admitted he was shocked after learning for the first time about the bloodline requirements of the law.

"I am shocked about the law. I thought Article 12 was there to protect the land for the native people of CNMI...but then there are some loopholes that were explained how the blood-

## Roundtable discussion on World War II commemoration this Thursday

The NMI Council for the Humanities cordially invites the public to attend a discussion on the remembrance and commemoration of World War II in the Pacific to be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater this Thursday evening, March 19, beginning at 6:30pm.

"War Memories: America, Asia and Pacific" will feature a roundtable discussion by professors Keith L. Camacho, Greg Dvorak, and Yujin Yaguchi to explore the celebration and contestation of World War II memories.

For more than a century, the peoples of America, Asia, and the Pacific have interacted in ways that have yet to be fully appreciated and understood. World War II, in particular, has been a key focal point for the peoples of this region.

Professors Camacho, Dvorak, and Yaguchi will provide differing perspectives on this important but heretofore little studied topic drawing from their personal research on war memories and commemoration.

Dr. Camacho, whose family is from Guam and Saipan, is an assistant professor of Pacific Islander Studies at UCLA. Dr. Dvorak is completing post-doctoral research at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Information Studies. Dr. Yaguchi is Associate Professor of Area Studies (North American Division) at the University of Tokyo.

This event is a part of the Council's ongoing "Community Lecture" series that offers thought-provoking presentations on a wide variety of topics of interest to the public. Contact Council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this event. (PR)

line can be diluted down to less than 25 percent. It's something new to us," he said.

Mereb, along with other student participants, admitted that they are worried on the impact of the law.

Article 12 stipulates that only persons of Northern Marianas descent may buy or own land in the CNMI.

The Citizens for Change to Article 12, a non-profit group, said that persons originally designated as NMDs were not exclusively Chamorros and Carolinians.

During the debate, it was disclosed to students that the child of a Chamorro who marries someone from the United States mainland or from Asia is considered only 50 percent NMD. This despite having at least one biological parent who is a Chamorro.

When the child with Chamorro blood, meanwhile, marries a non-NMD and bears a child, that child is considered only 25 percent NMD. That child's child, even if he has Chamorro

blood, could no longer own the land that would be passed down to him by her parents, grandparents, or great grand parents.

"We are under a different impression on this law. But now it's becoming more complicated and the bloodline percentage seems unfair for many locals," Mereb said.

He added that although he understands the need to pre-

serve the land, he also acknowledged that there are certain liberties and civil rights that are also protected in the same way and should be brought to the court to decide.

Twenty-year-old Francine Camacho, after hearing the lectures, is convinced that her future is at stake.

"I realize that my future depends on this...and it will inevi-

tably affected. We should take it out entirely to have a fair chance of getting land here," she said.

Mary Indalecio, 22, said that new knowledge about NMI descendants created some confusion and worry among them.

"It's like the end of the bloodline...and we need to act on this now before it becomes too late for our people," she opined.

Amber Mendiola, 18, says she

wants to hear the other side of the story about Article 12 before finally coming up with a position.

However, she said she appreciated how the presenters define being an NMI descent and the political term of NMDs.

Five of the core members of Citizens for Change to Article 12 were the event's speakers and presenters. They include Efrain F. Camacho, Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan, David Sablan, Marian Aldan-Pierce, Alex Sablan, and Atty. Vince Seman.

The Current Issues class is handled by instructor Sam McPhetres.

## Chinese tourism TV channel films in NMI this week

The Marianas Visitors Authority is making preparation for this week's arrival of a Chinese TV station that will visit the Northern Mariana Islands to introduce the tourist destination to their viewers in a two-hour special program.

An eight-member media team will explore the islands of Saipan and Tinian on March 17-21, 2009, to produce a broadcast for airing in April 2009. The program will be divided into five-minute segments throughout the month airing on the station's tourism channel targeting

500,000 viewers in 20 cities, largely middle-class travelers and families.

"This television special on the Northern Marianas is scheduled to air ahead of China's Golden Week holiday in May, which is excellent timing for Saipan, Tinian and Rota to attract more travel," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Our proximity to China still makes us an attractive and affordable vacation destination as individuals keep a close watch on their travel expenditures."

The preliminary itinerary for

the group on Saipan includes stops at diving hot spot Grotto; Laolao Bay Golf Resort; Bird Island Lookout, home to hundreds of seabirds; World War II historic sites Banzai Cliff and the Last Command Post. Snorkeling, a banana boat ride, and parasailing will be enjoyed, as well as a sunset dinner cruise in Saipan's lagoon. The team will also take a jungle tour and explore shopping opportunities at DFS Galleria.

On Tinian, the team will visit Taga Latte Stone Park where limestone monoliths carved by

ancient indigenous Chamorros still stand, World War II historic sites, the scenic Blow Hole. Local trolling will also be featured.

MVA will assist the promotional production with arrangements for filming permit, water sport activities, Managaha tour with lunch, scuba dive, and filming at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. The media tour is being organized and co-sponsored by Tinian Dynasty Holidays, which will assist with all other expenses and arrangements, including airfare. (PR)

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# Manta Rays concert band tops Guam music fest anew

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band once again emerged champions in the 2nd Annual Tumon Bay Music Festival after successfully defending their crown during the final show in Guam Saturday night.

The group's conductor and music director Will DeWitt relayed the good news over the telephone yesterday.

"We're very happy to see how our concert band amazed everyone here [on Guam]. They truly deserved to win," DeWitt said, adding that members of the Manta Ray Band were elated with the praises and applause from the audience.

DeWitt and her talented wards are scheduled to return to

Saipan today.

Besides the concert band top honor, three more gold medals were bagged by Manta Ray Band members.

Last Saturday morning, four students of the group dominated the string quartet category en route to winning the gold medal.

Early last week, its solo performer in the cello instrument was named champion of the category, while its Manta Flyerz won the gold medal in the rock band category.

DeWitt said so far, the group already bagged four gold medals and are all scheduled to perform in last night's Command Performance where top winners were asked for a repeat performance.

DeWitt said they are still hop-

ing to get three more gold medal awards the various solo instrument performances yesterday.

"We're waiting for the results...and we're hoping to get three more gold medals [in the other solo performances]," he said.

The music conductor revealed that the support of the school administrators added more confidence to the band members.

Principal Peter Leau, he said, arrived on the concert band performance along with other school supporters.

DeWitt's wife, Lois, also flew to Guam Thursday to lend her support to the group.

"Very exhilarating!" as what the music director described his and the group's feeling.

DeWitt recalled how the students managed to practice their

pieces in the last several months.

"They really worked hard... and these awards are testament to their commitment and dedication to what they do. We're very proud of our students and their achievements. These pays off all the difficulties and challenges we experienced," he said.

The Tumon Bay Festival is an annual event that aims to promote music among students. Last year, SSSH's Manta Ray Band entered only one contest category, the concert band, where it was adjudged champion.

This year, the school sent 44 members of the group that competed in various categories and divisions.

Participants in the festival are from Guam and other Pacific islands.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 16, 1999

### Torres: Not too fast

The administration has been warned against entering into a sole source contract for the construction of the \$17 million new prison because of potential lawsuit from local contractors. In a letter to Tenorio, former congressman Stanley T. Torres explained rushing into sole sourcing in order to fast track the construction of the jail facility may only court trouble for the Commonwealth, similar to the Hai-tai deal entered into by the previous administration. The construction agreement for the prison facility with the Korean firm, contracted through sole source by former governor Froilan C. Tenorio, was however disapproved by the Legislature on grounds that it was highly questionable. Local contracts have also challenged the deal.

### House OKs Senate changes to CIP bill

The House of Representatives is expected to pass in a session today the amendment on a legislation appropriating close to \$23 million in capital improvement project funds in a bid to fast-track construction of a new prison on the island. Members agreed yesterday to accept the amendment made by the Senate on House Bill 11-380, including revision of the CIP plan and increase in allocation to Rota and Tinian, so as not to derail the proposed correctional facility. They will also support awarding a sole source contract on the prison as part of the efforts to immediately address alleged deplorable conditions in the Division of Corrections and a series of jailbreaks as well as the recent siege by inmates.

MARCH 16, 2000

### Gov't to assume CUC's debt

Due to delay in working out a plan to retire more than \$100 million debt owed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, the Senate stepped in yesterday and passed a measure that will transfer the liability to the executive branch. The move, if approved by the House of Representatives and the governor, will cut short a proposed debt-to-equity conversion scheme being drawn up with the Commonwealth Development Authority, according to its proponent. Under the legislation offered by Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, any and all indebtedness of the government-owned utility corporation to CDA shall be transferred to a special account to be created within the Department of Finance.

### Fuel price increase impacts shipping costs

In what appears to be a strong indication of higher commodity prices in the next few weeks, a major shipping company yesterday moved to obtain permit that would increase its fuel surcharge in Hawaii and the Mariana Islands. The move by Washington-based CSX Lines to apply for a one percent increase in the shipping company's Hawaii and Guam tariffs was seen to aggravate the burden carried by CNMI wholesalers who transport items from the U.S. to the islands. CSX Lines is seeking the approval of the Surface Transportation Board to increase the fuel surcharge in its Hawaii and Guam tariffs from 2.25 percent to 3.25 percent effective March 26, 2000.

MARCH 16, 2001

### Increase in beverage container tax mullied

The House of Representatives yesterday tossed back to the natural resources committee a proposal that seeks to allocate 50 percent of revenues from the Beverage Container Tax to the government's solid waste management program. The lower chamber decided to send House Bill 12-041 back to the committee level following contentions by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider that re-channeling money from the general fund to another program is impractical during these days of hard economic times. Instead, Mr. Hofschneider suggested that the Legislature move to increase the Beverage Container Tax by at least .025 cents, which should then be earmarked for the proposed tin can recycling program.

### Demapan talked of CNMI legal system in US school

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan had been invited to speak at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan last Feb. 22. The chief justice's appearance marks the first time in history that a Supreme Court Chief Justice from the Pacific Rim has spoken at a State of Michigan law school. Mr. Demapan addressed an audience of over a hundred people, consisting of law students, professors, assistant deans, judges, and other justices. Mr. Demapan's speaking engagement at the law school was arranged through an invitation extended by the 3rd Cooley students on behalf of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Asian Pacific American Law Students Association.

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# RNV Construction 'relieved' federal court dismissed case

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

RNV Construction general manager Ruel Villacrusis said he is relieved that the case filed against the company by one of its former employees was dismissed without hearing by the federal court.

"Truth always prevails. We have been doing business here for almost 11 years and this is the first time that a case has been filed against us, and it was dismissed by the federal court without a hearing. We are relieved," Villacrusis told *Saipan Tribune*.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted a motion for summary judgment in favor of RJCL Corp., doing business as RNV Construction, and its general manager Ruel R. Villacrusis.

Munson also awarded costs to the defendants, who were sued by Honorio G. Cambronerero over alleged non-renewal of his contract after his several disabilities came to light in a series of medical examinations.

The judge said the defendants filed their motion with supporting affidavits and documents, and the plaintiff conceded that defendants' summary judgment motion was well-taken but asked for dismissal without prejudice of his Commonwealth law claims.

"The court has reviewed defendants' unopposed motion for summary judgment and finds that entry of summary judgment against plaintiff is appropriate as a matter of law. Plaintiff concedes summary judgment on the first two claims for relief, which are based on federal law," said Munson.

The chief judge said the

plaintiff was not terminated, but his contract was simply not renewed.

"Plaintiff had a written contract, and no public policy issues arose from the simple fact that his contract was not renewed," the judge said.

Munson added that defendants are entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law on the claims for medical expenses because their liability to plaintiff for his medical costs ended 96 days after his contract was not renewed, and they had paid all medical expenses up to that date.

"Finally, plaintiff's claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress fails because there he did not show 'outrageous conduct' by defendants," Munson said in his March 6 ruling.

The trial and hearing set for March 12 were taken off the calendar.

Cambronerero, through counsel, sued the defendants for violation of Title I under the Americans with Disabilities Act in U.S. District Court. The plaintiff was an electrician for the construction company.

Sometime in August 2006, Cambronerero began to feel chest pains and numbness in his left arm and sought treatment at Pacific Medical Center. He received initial treatment and was given medication, but a doctor recommended Cambronerero to seek further treatment in the Philippines, according to the complaint.

Cambronerero reportedly informed Villacrusis of his need to travel to the Philippines. Villacrusis agreed to allow Cambronerero to go to the Philippines for medical treatment and assured him that the company will shoulder all of his

medical expenses.

Cambronerero left for the Philippines on Oct. 4, 2006, with a roundtrip airline ticket he had won in a company Christmas raffle, and \$500 as initial medical allowance given him by Villacrusis.

Without Villacrusis' consent, the plaintiff was not able to receive the treatment and returned to Saipan on Feb. 3, 2007.

According to the complaint, on or about March 22, 2007, Villacrusis informed Cambronerero his employment contract would not be renewed upon its expiration on April 24, 2007, because of his heart condition.

Cambronerero sought legal counsel who began communication with Villacrusis. After plaintiff's lawyers filed two letters, Villacrusis agreed to ne-



## DONATION TO DES

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dandan Elementary School and its students would like to thank the local Superior Court for providing some school supplies to its lucky students this school year. They have been very instrumental in providing DES 10 of its lucky winners to receive some school supplies the past six years. Many thanks also go to the justices for their commitment and vision in providing the various schools such opportunities. There to present the school supplies with a nice handbag is Virginia Gridley, employee of Superior Court.

gotiations in April 2007. On or about Feb. 8, 2008, Cambronerero's counsel received a let-

ter from defendant's counsel rejecting the settlement categorically. The case reached

the federal court, which granted the defendants motion for summary judgment.

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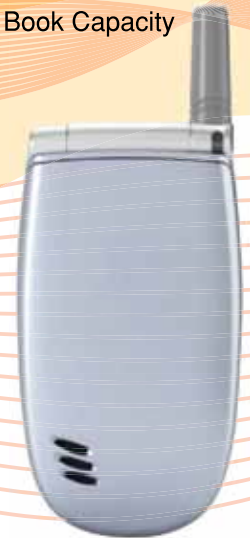
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- Voice Dialing
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# PHONES

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### Proposed Amendment of the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezoning)

We ask for your comments on proposed amendments (rezones) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map #20 - San Jose (Oleai) village. A public hearing will be held:

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2009  
Time: 5:30 pm  
Place: Zoning Office Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan

The proposed map changes may be viewed at Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan  
Zoning Board website: [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp) (publications page)

After the public hearing, the Zoning Board will make a decision on whether to approve any or all of the changes to the Official Zoning Maps.

Comments on the proposals may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office and must be received at the Zoning Office by 12:00 pm, Wednesday, April 15, 2009. Send written comments via e-mail to [staff@zoning.gov.mp](mailto:staff@zoning.gov.mp), via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Office at 234-9661. This notice is required pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2007.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER  
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Democracy's appeal

It is sometimes supposed that the Bush administration's push for democracy in the Middle East was invented in Washington and imposed, sometimes with force, on a resistant or indifferent region. In fact, the groundswell for democratic change in Arab states and the broader Islamic world began before the turn of the century and continued growing even after President George W. Bush's second-term State Department mostly abandoned the cause. That's been demonstrated recently in a couple of extraordinary appeals to the Obama administration.

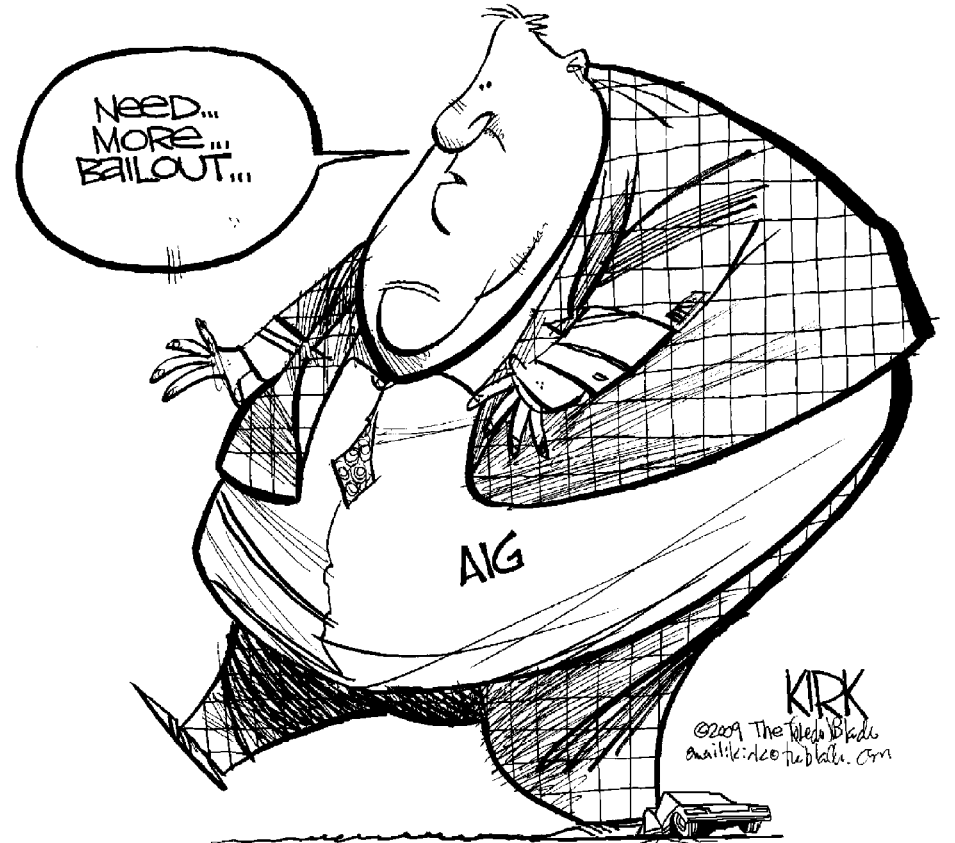
One occurred two weeks ago, when senior Afghan officials were invited to Washington to participate in a strategy review. The government of Hamid Karzai is well aware of suggestions by senior administration officials and Democrats in Congress that the United States should set aside the goal of democracy in Afghanistan. So when Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta met Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, he delivered what one official told us was an impassioned appeal for continued U.S. support for an elected government. Outside the State Department, Spanta publicly told Clinton that "Afghanistan is committed ... to work together closely on democratization of Afghanistan and its stability." Clinton didn't publicly respond, but we're told she reacted positively to the minister's plea. We hope that's reflected in the strategy for Afghanistan when it is unveiled in the coming weeks.

Another remarkable appeal was issued by a group of more than 140 politicians, scholars and democracy activists from the United States and the Muslim world, who told President Obama: "In order to rebuild relations of mutual respect, it is critical that the United States be on the right side of history regarding the human, civil and political rights of the peoples of the Middle East." The group reiterated a point that the new administration, with its focus on "direct diplomacy" with state leaders, has appeared slow to grasp: "U.S. support for Arab autocrats was supposed to serve U.S. national interests and regional stability. In reality, it produced a region increasingly tormented by rampant corruption, extremism and instability."

What democracy movements need from the United States, the letter said, "is a commitment to encourage political reform ... through peaceful policies that reward governments that take active and measurable steps towards genuine democratic reforms. Moreover, the (United States) should not hesitate to speak out in condemnation when opposition activists are unjustly imprisoned in Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, or elsewhere." The list of signatories includes activists not only from those countries, but also from Lebanon, Syria, Libya, Morocco, Iraq, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Malaysia, the Philippines, Turkey, Nigeria, Somalia and the Palestinian Authority. Its depth and breadth vividly shows that the Obama administration could find many allies for progressive change in the Middle East—if only it looks beyond the rulers' palaces.

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THE PRODIGAL SON RETURNS...AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN



## Paying attention to life

“Attention! Attention must be paid!” shouts Willie Loman in the superb American classic play *Death of a Salesman*. Willie is a down and out salesman begging that someone pay attention to him and his needs. He has worked hard all his life. As he grows older, he feels that he has missed something. So he cries out for “Attention.” But poor Willy never gets the message. Throughout his life he has failed to pay attention to what is important in any person's life.

There are few things more important in life than “paying attention.” Are we paying attention to what we are doing to ourselves? Are we paying attention to our children? To our nation? To the things that affect our lives? To our environment? To our work?

When we pay attention, we muster up all our resources of intelligence, feelings, and moral sensitivity. When we pay attention, we focus. When we pay attention, we understand and plan.

However often we fall prey to distractions which destroy our acts of paying attention. And therein lies most of the dilemmas we face that cause us great grief. As a result many of us try to escape into alcohol, drugs, compulsive promiscuity, and yes, even into TV channel-flipping watching. We try to escape.

“Attention” is one of the key elements of many religions. For example, we cannot pray unless we pay attention to the words and focus our thoughts on God. We cannot meditate in Zen Buddhism without paying attention. Other forms of attention are practiced when we read a book, drive our cars, talk to someone we love, or even when we cook the family meal. Attention must be constant or we fall into problems.

To better understand “attention” and its influence in our daily life, we must realize that it is part of the social institutions that we live in. We do not attempt self-control and self-discipline in isolation, but in the institutions we live in. And it is important to pay attention to these institutions or they will fail us in our needs. After all, institutions are man-made and require attention also.

For many of us, the family is “a haven in a heartless world.” But to create a perfect haven, or a loving family, we must pay “attention.” Despite the romantic fantasies, families require a great deal of attention to function successfully. Attending to each other, expressing our deepest concerns and aspirations, and listening to those of the other person are fundamental in a good marriage and crucial to the personal satisfaction it provides.

While attention is important between marriage partners, it is fundamental for children. There is nothing more important than the quality of our young people, yet most of us consistently refuse to “pay attention” to this fact. We simply do not find enough time to care for them. As a result children are feeling more and more the effects of this subtle neglect. We do not pay enough attention to helping them make decisions in their lives. They crave our attention but how often do we listen? And then we wonder what happened to them when they fail.

The role of the homemaker has been devalued as more moth-

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



ers take outside jobs. The care of the children and the household is passed on to low-paid housekeepers, babysitters and daycare workers. However many times because of financial necessity, this situation cannot be avoided. But families can meet this new challenge if both parents share the responsibilities of fulfilling emotional needs, not just economic.

We live in a society that is obsessively concerned with making money. And money is the major form of distraction. Instead of paying “attention” to building wholesome relationships with family members and friends, we are distracted by the pursuit of money.

Here in the CNMI, consequences of this distraction can be seen in the increasing number of children with emotional problems. As parents spend more time outside the home, divorces increase. This is often coupled with a gradual alienation among citizens. There simply isn't time enough to “pay attention.”

Fewer families sit down to enjoy dinners together than ever before. We “graze” on food from some fast food shop and race on. In the home, fewer children are encouraged to bow to their elders and kiss their hand as a symbol of respect. I recall as a child in my home, my brother, sister and I had to kiss my father's and mother's hand in respect and gratitude every Sunday before dinner for all the good things we received.

Our older children go to the United States to study, but few return to live and work. Gradually we have lost our educated work force to outside non-resident workers. Sadly, the person who doesn't return also loses his family, friends and ethnic identity. All this is subtle and gradual. After a period of time, the results become obvious. All of this happens because we did not “pay attention.”

Look at how we desecrate our island by littering it. Stroll along a beach and see how little attention we are paying to the ocean that rolls up on the beach. Drive by the dilapidated buildings reminding us of our inattention. Slowly we are surrounding ourselves with an environment that cries out “Attention! Attention must be paid!”

As we struggle to regain an economic foothold which will support the lifestyle we have chosen, it is time to “pay attention” to what we are doing. In our pursuit for economic growth, we are not sufficiently paying attention to the enormous social and environmental price this growth is costing. We must pay attention to the whole picture.

See PAYING on Next Page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## The blame game revised

Now that the CNMI House of Representatives overrode his veto of the budget bill for fiscal year 2009, Gov. Benigno Fitial has stated that his administration has no choice but to reduce personnel. Massive layoffs in an election year? Sounds like a bold move, but I am just wondering if any of the personnel Fitial plans to lay off will include any of his loyalist supporters.

I'm a bit confused right now. Is this the same governor who went on a hiring frenzy within the last three and a half years? How many non-essential employees has Gov. Fitial hired just within the last three months? When a business is on the verge of collapse, the very last thing it does is hire hundreds of non-essential employees. If anything, they trim the fat and cut expenses, cut unnecessary personnel, and put a freeze on hiring. Isn't Gov. Fitial highly regarded as a business executive? Wasn't he supposed to run the CNMI government like a business?

The truth is, real austerity measures begin with Gov. Fitial. If anyone is really interested in keeping their jobs, I suggest putting **"Better Times Part II"** bumper stickers on their cars and on posters around their homes. Better yet, pay him a visit and tell him how you and your entire family will vote for him in November. Just be sure you have a big family name and a copy of your family tree.

If Gov. Fitial really wants to trim the fat, here is a great place to begin:

**Sue bad garment factory owners instead of the U.S. federal government.** This is a brilliant plot which could gain a great deal of sympathy and support from the same federal government which "we" are suing. Instead of spending millions of dollars on suing the federal government which gives us more than \$130 million annually while protecting us from the world's "axis of evil," let's get our AG's office to sue the former garment factory owners who left swiftly and suddenly in the middle of the night, abandoning their garment employees with unpaid wages and no plane tickets home to their country of origin. Many of the stranded garment workers have been deemed unemployable because they lack special skills or can't speak any English. Out of hunger and desperation, some

of these former garment workers have had to resort to prostitution, stealing copper, or selling and distributing "ice" (crystal meth). I think Governor Fitial should get his financial gurus together and have them crunch some numbers to see how much these dastardly garment factory owners have cost the CNMI. I highly recommend Gov. Fitial sue for punitive damages as well. Who knows? Maybe the federal government will give us a bigger portion of the stimulus package, and Fitial could gain some votes!

**Prepaid meters in all government buildings.** What's more important? Keeping employees, or keeping cool? Ever walk into a government office and see employees wearing sweaters because it is so cold? Perhaps if every government office was responsible for pre-paying for the power they consume, it would no longer be like walking into a meat freezer. Perhaps the heads of every government agency would actually push for massive energy conservation efforts as well. CUC certainly would be happy, as they would be able to pay their vendors on time. We really need to ask ourselves, can we live without air conditioners? Most of us grew up without air conditioners at home or at school. If my memory serves me correctly, the only air conditioned classroom at MHS some twenty years ago was our computer classroom. The bottom line is, sweating is good for you. Government employees could sweat out body toxins, lose a little weight, and conserve power, all at the same time. Who knows? Maybe this could pull in some votes for Fitial!

**Pay for your own power bill.** As a symbolic gesture, I think Gov. Fitial should come out and tell us that he wants to pay for his own CUC bill from this day forward, because "every dollar counts." Judging from the size of his huge mansion up on the hills of Saipan overlooking us common folk, it must cost a small fortune each month to power his palace and all its lights. Maybe this goodwill gesture will inspire many of our government employees to start paying for their own cell phone bills, to return their leased luxury automobiles and start driving their own cars, and to start paying for their own gas instead of charging it to CNMI's taxpayers. Who knows? Maybe this will pull in some votes for Fitial!

**End all government leases.** Whether it is a car lease of an office

### By ED PROPST

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Propst is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.*



lease, end it immediately. Move all government offices to Capital Hill. Have office employees team up and renovate the building they will be moving in to. Sure, those offices on Capital Hill might be a bit small for large government agencies like CUC, but we can always extend the buildings with *pala palas* on each side. Ever been to some of the barracks here in Saipan? If hard-working guest workers can pack 20 people to a room, I am certain our government employees can manage. This austerity measure alone will save the CNMI millions annually! Who knows? Maybe this could garner Fitial votes!

**Pozzolan in a box.** At one point in time, the CNMI government could have potentially made billions off of selling pozzolan from Pagan. Whatever the lame excuse is, mining pozzolan on Pagan never materialized. So what is stopping the CNMI government from mining it right now? Instead of hiring more political or non-essential employees, how about Governor Fitial hire a bunch of unemployed former garment factory workers, send them up to Pagan, and have them pack cardboard boxes and bags with pozzolan. We could then market "Pagan Pozzolan" online and sell it on e-bay! The CNMI could potentially make millions and the former garment factory workers could make more than enough money to pay for their plane ticket home. Who knows? Maybe this could bring Gov. Fitial votes!

**Fire ALL special advisors and consultants.** Let's trim the fat by getting rid of special assistants to special assistants, "policy" advi-

*See THE BLAME on Page 13*

## An old man's ides of March

The oft-expressed view is that behind every successful man is a failed husband and father. I am confirmed on the husband and father part, and evidently, I need to chalk in "lover," as well. As to being successful, I gave up that pursuit long time ago.

I self-diagnosed bipolarity in college so there is an antisocial element in my behavior that shows up in mood swings. I have shunned the rites of recognition. I did not march in the rituals of completion at graduation in elementary, high, college, and graduate schools. I spurned the DD Council's award of Parent of the Year once, a rather costly political mistake. Somewhere in my upbringing, there did not develop any strong desire to be recognized as an achiever nor clamor for the certificated appreciation for efforts expended in engaging endeavors.

One of my students recently lashed out at me: "Old man, get off my face!" She took exception to a comment I made about her academics. She was determined to rebel as an act of self-assertion while she bloomed at puberty. It made me face the reality that I had grown too old to orchestrate the fun and games of teaching. It was time to retire.

My mother spent her few precious *pesetas* so that I could ride on the 15-minute promotional Philippine Air Lines flight in Northern Luzon in high school, leaving the indelible impression that international travel in my time and my circumstances (my Dad was in grad school in Kentucky at the time) was a choice and not a hurdle, not a case of "whether or not," but of "when."

My HS Social Studies teacher thought I should mingle with the elitist members of section one in my junior HS year (there were six classes of more than 40 students each) so I discovered cognition and hobnobbed with the cream of the crop. That qualified me to a confused self-conscious journey through the dark subterranean passageway of early teenage-dom. The preoccupation of the chil-

dren of the well off and the prominent was not always focused on academics. Jimmy the Runt's hormones (I was the youngest in my class) finally caught up with puberty, but the real boys dabbled in manly vocational stuff like woodworking. I was in sissy retail merchandizing but the school editor talked me into writing a story, and 'the moving finger having writ' had not ceased journeying ever since.

A maternal great aunt taught me social graces among the town's high and mighty; being of the poor cousins in my Uncle's household aligned me with the laboring peons of the land and the squawkers of the *palengke* plebs. Young Senator Ferdinand Marcos and his fast-to-the-tune Imelda showed up at the house once, and I was struck by the obvious fact that both pulled their pants, like everyone else, one leg at a time. Familiarity of both domains, being lucid about the difference, came in handy in my *glocalization* process that traversed six continents, awakening with nationalist Rizal to struggling with south African Mandela. The vocational passage continues to journey these days of the Obama era.

The Runt would find his vocation among the *haridjans/dalits* in the village of Maliwada in Maharastra providing the concrete assault on my otherwise bourgeois disposition. Gandhi's "untouchables" symbolized a global contradiction—humans inhumanity to other humans. The *base-comunidad* of post-Medellin Catholicism had the Sud-American Catholic Bishops siding with the poor and propelling the *ekklesia* to social justice, to the consternation of the crusted red robes of the Vatican.

The epistemology of post-WWII existentialists would provide the imagery of the theology of hope, the liturgy of freedom, and the strategies of liberation. Gazing into the nozzles of eleven M-16s from Ferdinand's martial law boys on the island of Mactan, accused of sheltering personae with No Permanent Address (aka, New Peoples Army), came as baptism by fire. It, however, steel-

### By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.*



the resolve that nothing in this world was going to intimidate this life back into the infantile culture of fear and the juvenile shackles of intimidation.

Imbibing in the ecumenics of the day, I understood myself endowed, like everyone else who comes into this earth, *as one, unique, unrepeatable gift of human life in history; there has never been one like me before, and there will never be another one like me ever again.* So, how dare I live this life on the whimsical requirements of social status and fleeting acclaimed achievements, or worst, latch on the illusory promise of another life later, when the call of present reality is rich, the magnet of authentic living challenging, the transparency of sheer consciousness infinitely boundless, all resident in the world of spirit that is in the midst of this world, in the here-and-now!?

I remember the Galilean brother who witnessed that to "save your life, you lose it; to give it away, you find it!" Followed the advice, particularly Rabindranath Tagore's sense: "Our aim must be to restore to the villagers the power to meet their own requirements." SJ Tielhard de Chardin thundered: "The task before us now, if we shall not perish, is to shake off our ancient prejudices, and rebuild the earth." The current contradictions on CNMI labor

*See AN OLD on Page 13*

## PAYING

From Page 10

Our current problems did not happen overnight. They are the result of not "paying attention" when the first signs appeared. Recall how often we become seriously sick. Almost all of our illnesses are the end product of accumulations of numerous "not paying attentions."

Consider the fact that the government is pleading with the United States to postpone the federalization act to be initiated in June 2009.

What is the reason? Do we need more time to "pay attention" to details or are we just pleading with no direction hoping it will go away?

"Attention" deals with the cultivation of human possibilities and purposes. Distraction, its opposite, is a response to fear and exhaustion, leading to escapism. In the long run our economic life depends on the quality of us, the people. What hope is there if we do not "pay attention" to what we are doing to our children and to our society? "Attention! Attention must be paid!" Willy did not understand this. Do we?

A friend sent me the following quotation. After reading it, let us ask ourselves: What have we learned in 2,063 years? Have we been

paying attention?

"The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance."

—Cicero, the great Roman writer, orator and statesman—55 B.C.






So, evidently nothing. When do we start paying "Attention?" Have a great day.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

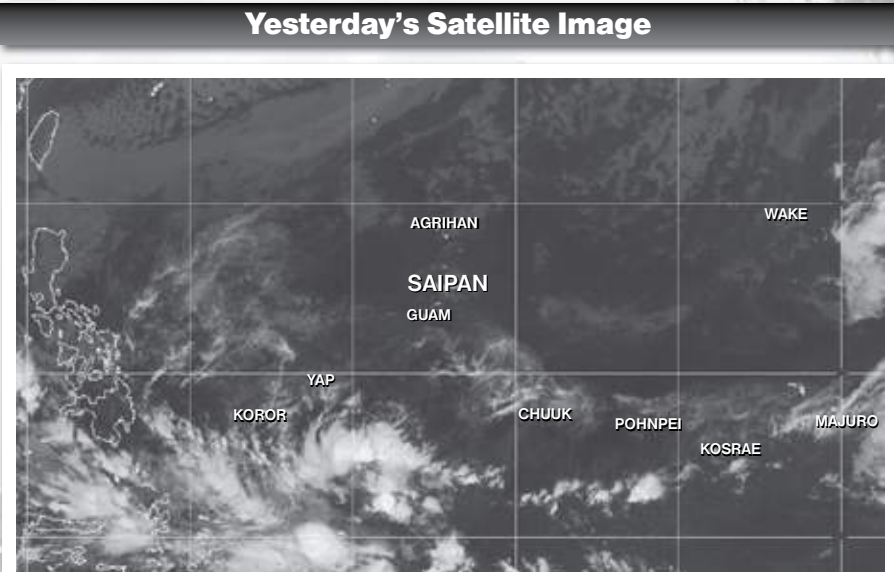
## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼75
Palau	Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Yap	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲89 ▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼76
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88 ▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲82 ▼76

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲71 ▼58
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲49 ▼38
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲77 ▼67
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲77 ▼65
London	Cloudy	▲51 ▼39
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲73 ▼54
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲85 ▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲74 ▼59
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼68
New York	Cloudy	▲44 ▼34
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲53 ▼40
Paris	Sunny	▲50 ▼40
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼40
Rome	Cloudy	▲64 ▼40
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲56 ▼41
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲63 ▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲45 ▼29
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲59 ▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲50 ▼37

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
3:45 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:21 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:15 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:32 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet



**Picture Time: 1:00AM, Sunday, March 15, 2009**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area west of Iwo To island at 25N139E and stretches southwestward to 21N134E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 18N. Extensive cloudiness and widespread rain are evident along this boundary and northwestward to beyond 25n. Another cold front extends southwestward from a low pressure system centered northeast of Wake Island at 24N170E to 17N167E then continues west-southwestward as a shear line to near Rota at 14N145E to end at 12N138E. Cloudiness with widespread rain and a few thunderstorms associated with the low and cold front are seen from the southeast to the northeast of Wake Island or north of a line from 18N167E to 14N170E to 20N180. Scattered showers are found along and up to 250 miles north of the shear line including Wake Island. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from Mindanao to 5N130E then through a weak circulation centered near 2N143E to end at EQ160E. Aided by upper-level divergence, numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis south of Koror and Yap south of a line from 6N130E to 5N147E. Scattered showers are present farther east south of Chuuk and Pohnpei south of a line from 2N148E to 5N160E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with favorable upper-level winds to create scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae but just south of Majuro within 125 miles of a line from 4N162E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:24 AM	6:27 PM	Today	11:05 PM	9:40 AM
Tuesday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM	Tuesday	11:58 PM	10:27 AM
Wednesday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM	Wednesday		11:18 AM
Thursday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM	Thursday	12:50 AM	12:09 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM	Friday	1:38 AM	1:01 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS**  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI**  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE**  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
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- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN**  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

- REQUIREMENTS**
  - For pictures:**
    - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
    - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
    - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
    - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
    - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
  - For announcements:**
    - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
  - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  - To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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  - The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>					<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7		CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6	
<b>Saipan-Guam</b>					<b>Guam-Saipan</b>				
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily		CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7	
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily		CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota	
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota		CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily	
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6		CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily	
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily		CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily	
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily		CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily	
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily		CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily	
<b>Saipan-Narita</b>					<b>Narita-Saipan</b>				
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily		NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily	
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7		NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7	
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily		NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily	
<b>Guam-Narita</b>					<b>Narita-Guam</b>				
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily		NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily	
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily		NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily	
<b>Saipan-Osaka</b>					<b>Osaka-Saipan</b>				
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6		OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7	
<b>Guam-Osaka</b>					<b>Osaka-Guam</b>				
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily		NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily	
<b>Saipan-Nagoya</b>					<b>Nagoya-Saipan</b>				
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily		NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily	
<b>Guam-Nagoya</b>					<b>Nagoya-Guam</b>				
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily		NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily	
<b>Saipan-Incheon</b>					<b>Incheon-Saipan</b>				
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7		OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka		OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka	
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily		OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6	
<b>Saipan-Busan</b>					<b>Busan-Saipan</b>				
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7		OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7	
<b>Saipan-Shanghai</b>					<b>Shanghai-Saipan</b>				
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6		FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5	
<b>Rota-Guam</b>					<b>Guam-Rota</b>				
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7		CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6	
<b>Guam-Palau</b>					<b>Palau-Guam</b>				
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7		CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2	
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5		CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6	
<b>Palau-Manila</b>					<b>Manila-Palau</b>				
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5		CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5	
<b>Guam-Manila</b>					<b>Manila-Guam</b>				
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror		CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror	
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily		CO 934	11:10pm	4:05am+1	Daily	
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7		PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7	
<b>Nagoya-Manila</b>					<b>Manila-Nagoya</b>				
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily		NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily	
<b>Incheon-Hongkong</b>					<b>Hongkong-Incheon</b>				
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily		OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily	
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily		OZ 7183	12:45am	4:05am	1,4,6	
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7		OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily	
<b>Narita-Manila</b>					<b>Manila-Narita</b>				
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily		NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily	
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



## THE BLAME

From Page 11

sors, and those so-called "volunteer" employees who supposedly don't get an official paycheck yet get their lodging, fine dining, and/or first-class travel paid for. The truth is, Gov. Fitial doesn't need all these non-essential/nonsensical employees. If he wants real advice, he should try hosting a public forum. Maybe it would give Fitial a dose of reality. Maybe he would find that sometimes in life, the best advice is free advice. Who knows? Maybe this will bring him some votes!

These are only a few ideas I came up with within the last thirty minutes. I am sure if Gov. Fitial hosted his very first community forum, he will find that the best solutions to our problems come from common, everyday people who struggle to make ends meet. Our economic hardships qualify us to speak about real austerity measures because we actually practice it in our homes and in our day-to-day living. Gov. Fitial needs to start listening to his constituents and stop listening to his highly-paid and highly-ineffective advisors and consultants. If this is truly a government of the people, for the people, and by the people, then shouldn't town hall meetings and public forums be a fundamental part of good governance?

I admit, my suggestions are tongue-in-cheek, but I am sincere about the need to put an end to the political blame game between the different branches of government. Instead of blaming all of our problems and last night's flat tire on federalization, perhaps it is high time that CNMI leaders take some responsibility for the problems the CNMI is faced with today. Perhaps if we took care of our investors and helped them instead of trying to take advantage of them, they would still be here. Perhaps if we looked into the real reasons why the CNMI went from pulling in 700,000 Japanese tourists annually not so long ago to barely 300,000 today, we would not be so dependent on maintaining the visa waiver for Russian and Chinese tourists. And last but not least, perhaps if each and every one of us took better care of ourselves and quit bad habits like smoking two packs a day, drinking a six-pack of beer every night, or eating Spam every morning, then maybe we wouldn't be spending millions annually on treating preventable illnesses and diseases.

In an effort to end the blame game, maybe it is high time that we agree that in some way or another, we all must share the blame for our problems. When we say that we can't report corruption or speak out against wrongdoings because we might lose our jobs, then we are to blame. When we all know that a person stole hundreds of thousands of dollars from the CNMI government and we say nothing and do nothing about it, then we are to blame. When we hire a relative even though our relative is not the most qualified applicant, then we are to blame. When we choose to treat our guest workers as indentured servants rather than guests and as an extended part of our family, then we are to blame. When we believe that minimum wage should be stuck at \$3 for more than a decade and that it is good enough to support a family, then we are to blame. When we make disparaging remarks about locals being lazy or fail to train our local population to get out of the government and in to the private sector, then we are to blame. When we have the God-given talent and wisdom to lead the CNMI yet we are unwilling to run for of-

fice because we discovered we would be paid less than what we are currently making, then we are to blame. And when we continue to elect leaders based on friendship and family with the promise of employment, while failing to scrutinize their character, intelligence, and performance, then ultimately, we are to blame.

## AN OLD

From Page 11

and immigration, and the ecological implications of the Marianas marine monument have not lessened the relevance of one's covenant and vocation.

These days, there is fatigue in my bones. To be sure, there is longevity in my genes. Statistical probability points to another score, but my ears hear the clanking of Mephistopheles' spade, and when shadows beckon, we harken, I reckon.

I just relinquished the security of a job to remind PSS and the Board of Education again that they are treating teachers like servants in bonded servitude; to promote among teachers a climate of cooperation within the learning community—particularly among students—rather than perpetuate the culture of intimidation and its consequent practices of putdown and bragging rights competition prevailing.

Meanwhile, in a globalized food chain gone awry, I join the motley few in localizing food production. While we are reminded this month of the tradition that says: "From dust you came and to dust

There is a lot of truth to the old saying, "We get the government we deserve." If we truly want a better future for the CNMI, then we all must make a concerted and conscientious effort to fight the good fight and stand up for what we believe in, regardless of criticism or consequences. There can be no other way.

you shall return," I invite others in the quietude of the in-between to exercise their freedom. "We need not wallow in dust when we could be busy tilling the soil, fertilizing it with our pee, and watering it with tears of joy."

Dag Hammarskjöld, former UN General Secretary, wrote about being chosen and being thankful. I find no comfort in thinking that one is "chosen." I am clear that I chose my path, and thereby, I live its consequences. Success has not been my holy grail, and the rewards of well-tended relationships had not been my bounty. I've left shredded illusions, shattered dreams, and tattered delusions along my way *sans* regrets or apologies.

To be reminded then that I am an old man bars me from the remaining escape into flights of youth that had blinded my last decade. There is a deep sobering sense of quiet now, of an un-intimidating and humbling sense of failure that abides even as colleagues' ashes one-by-one are broadcast into the four winds, and the lucidity lingers; but girl, oh, boy, what glorious journeys of failure it has all been, and this old man, in the ides of March, is indeed, and nevertheless, if not precisely for the unerring gift of realism, is very thankful!

## The CNMI Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

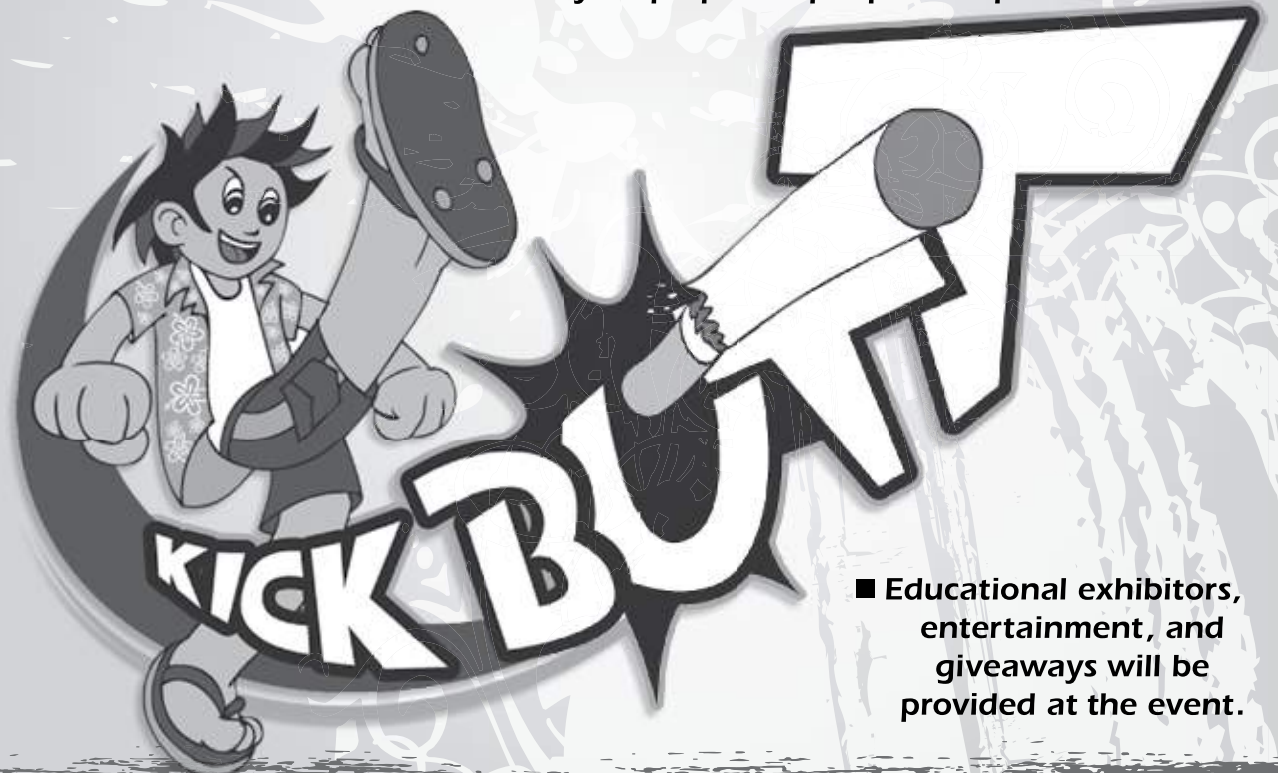
is pleased to announce the....

# 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL KICK BUTTS DAY

march and rally on March 25, 2009  
from 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

■ The event features a march from the American Memorial Park to the Carolinian Affairs Office.

■ Junior high school and high school students will compete in a 3 to 5 minute THICK BUTT Dance Competition, and elementary to junior high school students will compete in a PICK BUTT COMPETITION, and there will be a JROTC DRILL COMPETITION for a 10 year perpetual plaque and prizes.



■ Educational exhibitors, entertainment, and giveaways will be provided at the event.

For more information log on to [www.marianashealth.com](http://www.marianashealth.com) or contact the Community Guidance Center at 323-6586, 95 or 323-7848.



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-Mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### For a 40-TON AIR-CONDITIONING UNIT Baggage Claim Area at the Arrival Building of the Saipan International Airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and install a 40-Ton Air-Conditioning Unit at the Baggage Claim Area of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Proposals should include procurement, installation and testing of the new unit as well as 1-year warranty, 1-year preventive maintenance services and 24-hour on-call services for all warranty items.

A walk through inspection will be conducted on **Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.** in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Attendance at this walkthrough is mandatory for any companies interested in submitting proposals. Prospective proposers will meet CPA staff at the Ports Police Central Office prior to the inspection to acquire security badges.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com).

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, March 27, 2009.**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.  
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: March 12, 2009



# Business

## G-20 pledge sustained action on financial crisis

**HORSHAM, England (AP)**—Finance officials from rich and developing countries pledged Saturday to do “whatever is necessary” to fix the global economy, including supervision of freewheeling hedge funds and restoring bank lending by dealing with the shaky securities burdening their finances.

But officials remained cool to a U.S. push for more coordinated government spending to stimulate economies.

They called instead on the International Monetary Fund to assess the individual government actions already taken and what more might be required, rather than laying out definite plans to ramp up spending.

Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of 20, which accounts for more than 80 percent of the world economy, agreed there was an “urgent need” for a big boost to the lending resources of the International Monetary Fund to help struggling governments in the developing world.

They left the specific amount and



U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, seen at a press conference at the G20 Finance Ministers meeting at a hotel near Horsham in England, Saturday, March 14, 2009.

“We’re prepared to take whatever action is necessary to ensure growth is restored and we’re committed to do that for however long it takes to do that,” said British Treasury chief Alistair Darling.

As host of the gathering at a hotel south of London, Britain worked hard to bridge divisions between the United States and Europe on the stimulus issue, and all the key players were keen to present a united front on Saturday.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who had pushed for Europe to match Washington’s \$787 billion package of spending and tax cuts, said there was “broad consensus globally on the need to act aggressively to restore growth to the global economy.”

Geithner said he was pleased with progress made at the talks on Friday and Saturday, but noted that the world economic and financial crisis was still playing out. “This is a very challenging period and this is still evolving,” he told reporters.

Darling said that it was for “individual countries to decide what’s right for them.”

“They’ve got to reach a judgement as to how much they do, what effect is it having, which areas of the economy they need to support, whatever’s right for them,” he said.

### Brown, Merkel insist G-20 will deliver results

**LONDON (AP)**—German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday rejected calls for European nations to consider new fiscal stimulus packages to help ease the impact of the global downturn.

Officials in the U.S. have suggested Europeans should do more to match the scale of Washington’s \$787 billion package of spending and tax cuts.

Following talks with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Merkel said action in Berlin, London and other European capitals had barely had time to produce results. “Nothing has actually yet taken effect on the ground,” Merkel told reporters at London’s Downing Street. Germany last year launched a fiscal stimulus equivalent to 4.2 percent of annual GDP, she said. “If we want to actually strengthen

the effect of such packages we will simply have to implement them first, and not already talk about the next to come,” Merkel said, speaking through a translator.

Merkel and Brown said next month’s summit of the Group of 20 industrialized and emerging economies should instead seek concrete action on toughening regulation of financial markets.

“This is going to be a crucial year which will show whether we are able, as an international community, to cooperate and meet these challenges, or if we are not,” Merkel said.

The German leader said she’s optimistic the G-20 summit in London can produce results “that see to it that through new regulation, through new supervisory functions, we ward off

such a crisis in the future.”

Finance ministers of the G-20 nations were separately holding talks Saturday in Horsham, in southern England.

Brown, who said he and Merkel had chatted over a long walk in the southern English countryside, praised a decision by Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg and other countries to cooperate over international tax evasion, in an easing of banking secrecy rules. “That is a sign of the world working together and making progress,” he said.

“This is a recognition I believe that the old tax havens and the regulatory havens have no place in this new world—and we now call on all countries to adopt international standards,” Brown said.

who would contribute open, to be taken up at the much-anticipated summit of the group’s national leaders in London on April 2. The job of Saturday’s meeting was to shape the agenda for that gathering, which will be closely watched for whether leaders can find common steps to take.

### OPEC calls for end to overproduction

**VIENNA (AP)**—OPEC ministers called Saturday for an end to overproduction by some members as they sought to slice nearly a million barrels per day from world supply and boost prices—but without further shocking the anemic global economy.

Their comments suggested that Sunday’s oil ministers’ meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries might opt for a call on all members to honor production quotas, instead of deciding to slash output outright.

Most members of the 12-nation organization had been clear in favoring reduced output in the days preceding Sunday’s full meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. Still they had left

open whether they want to lower output quotas—or if they favor a solution less likely to hurt the struggling global economy by simply seeking to end overproduction by some nations above levels allotted to them.

Algerian energy and mines minister Chakib Khelil called for both. “Comply and cut,” he told reporters asking what he preferred.

But recognition that direct cuts could backfire appeared to prevail on the eve of the meeting.

While slashing production could raise prices in the short term, it could also lead to further depressing demand, as struggling economies cut back on pricey crude they cannot afford. Pushing for full quota compliance instead would be less harmful.

## Obama says US economy sound, reassures investors

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Barack Obama on Saturday downplayed divisions between the U.S. and Europe over how to tackle the world’s financial crisis and said China should have “absolute confidence” that its sizable investments in the United States are safe.

In a conversation focused heavily on the economy, Obama met in the Oval Office with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. It was the latest in a series of talks the president has had with his counterparts around the world before a pair of international meetings where the economic crisis will dominate.

Both leaders will attend the Group of 20 countries summit in London on April 2, and the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad in mid-April.

Obama said the notion that the U.S. and Europe are already taking sides, with America pushing for more stimulus spending and European nations favoring tighter regulation of the financial industry, is a “phony debate.”



President Barack Obama gestures during his meeting with Brazil’s President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Saturday, March 14, 2009.

“I can’t be clearer in saying that there are no sides,” Obama told reporters af-

ter the meeting. He said a full range of approaches, including stimulus spending such as his own recently enacted \$787 billion package, and financial regulation, are needed to help revive the global economy.

Financial regulation “is front and center” among the issues he wants to deal with, he said.

“In my mind, at least, there is no conflict or contradiction between the positions of the G-20 countries and how we’re going to be moving forward,” Obama said, adding that differences in details were being worked out. “I expect to have a productive meeting.”

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, who had pushed for Europe to match Washington’s \$787 billion package of spending and tax cuts, said Saturday that there was “broad consensus globally on the need to act aggressively to restore growth to the global economy. Geithner spoke in London at a preparatory meeting of finance officials from the rich and developing G-20 countries.

### Insurance giant AIG to pay \$165 million in bonuses

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—American International Group is giving its executives tens of millions of dollars in new bonuses even though it received a taxpayer bailout of more than \$170 billion dollars.

AIG is paying out the executive bonuses to meet a Sunday deadline, but the troubled insurance giant has agreed to administration requests to restrain future payments.

The Treasury Department determined that the government did not have the legal authority to block the current payments by the company. AIG declared earlier this month that it had suffered a loss of \$61.7 billion for the fourth quarter of last year, the largest corporate loss in history.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner has asked that the company scale

back future bonus payments where legally possible, an administration official said Saturday.

This official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said that Geithner had called AIG Chairman Edward Liddy on Wednesday to demand that Liddy renegotiate AIG’s current bonus structure.

Geithner termed the current bonus structure unacceptable in view of the billions of dollars of taxpayer support the company is receiving, this official said.

In a letter to Geithner dated Saturday, Liddy informed Treasury that outside lawyers had informed the company that AIG had contractual obligations to make the bonus payments and could face lawsuits if it did not do so.



# Nation

## Obama: Food safety system a health 'hazard'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's food safety system is a "hazard to public health" and overdue for an overhaul, President Barack Obama said Saturday as he filled the top job at the Food and Drug Administration.

Obama used his weekly radio and video address to announce the nomination of former New York City Health Commissioner Margaret Hamburg as agency commissioner and the selection of Baltimore's health commissioner, Joshua Sharfstein as her deputy. Consumer groups applauded the picks.

The president also is creating a special advisory group to coordinate food safety laws and recommend how to update them. Many of these laws have not changed



Obama

since they were written early in the last century, he said.

Obama said too many agencies are responsible for food safety, making it difficult to share information and stop problems from falling through the cracks. The FDA does not have enough money or workers to conduct annual inspections at more than a fraction of the 150,000 food processing plants and warehouses in the country, Obama said.

"That is a hazard to public health. It is unacceptable. And it will change under the leadership of Dr. Margaret Hamburg," he pledged.

Hamburg, 53, is a bioterrorism expert. She was an assistant health secretary under President Bill Clinton and helped lay the

groundwork for the government's bioterrorism and flu pandemic preparations.

As New York City's top health official in the early 1990s, she created a program that cut high rates of drug-resistant tuberculosis. She is the daughter of two doctors. Her mother was the first black woman to earn a medical degree from Yale University, and she credits her father for instilling in her a passion for public health.

Sharfstein, 39, is a pediatrician who has challenged the FDA on the safety of over-the-counter cold medicines for children. He also served as a health policy aide to Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who plays a leading role in overseeing the pharmaceutical industry.

Both are doctors and outsiders to the troubled agency and will face the challenge of trying to turn it around.

## Alaska's Murkowski a new 'powerhouse' in Senate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Not even a skiing accident could slow Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski's political ascent.

She returned to Capitol Hill the day after she fell and tumbled wildly down Alaska's Mount Alyeska. Despite tearing two ligaments and cartilage in her left knee,

the 51-year-old Republican made it back to the Senate, with the help of a wheelchair and crutches, in time to vote for a \$410 billion spending package that included nearly



Murkowski

\$200 million for her state.

Only in her first full term, Murkowski is Alaska's senior senator and the top Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, a crucial role for her oil-producing state. She serves on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee and is the only woman among eight men on the Senate GOP's leadership team.

"I can't think of anybody in recent years in the Senate who has gone further faster than

Lisa Murkowski," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. "Alaska has a new powerhouse already." Murkowski is seeking to fill the role once played by Ted Stevens, the longest serving Republican senator ever and a legendary figure in Alaska, where he wielded political influence for than half a century. Stevens, who served 40 years in the Senate, was known for steering billions of dollars in federal money to his home state, drawing praise from constituents and consternation from watchdog groups and reformers.

abortion opponents, the trial of one of the nation's few late-term abortion providers has been a long time coming, a chance for a little bit of justice after years of seeing their efforts thwarted. To abortion-rights supporters, Dr. George Tiller's trial set to begin Monday is the culmination of repeated harassment, a witch hunt in which his foes have been willing to do anything and everything to gain a conviction. Tiller and his Wichita clinic have been regular targets of anti-abortion demonstrations, including the

45-day "Summer of Mercy" event staged by Operation Rescue in 1991. His clinic was damaged by a pipe bomb in 1986, and in 1993 a protester shot him in both arms. Abortion opponents contend Tiller illegally aborts fetuses that could survive outside the womb. Kansas law allows late-term abortions if two doctors agree that it is necessary to save a woman's life or prevent "substantial and irreversible" harm to "a major bodily function," a phrase that's been interpreted to include mental health.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Woman found guilty of baby's clothes dryer death

BOGALUSA, La. (AP)—A Louisiana woman has been found guilty of killing her baby by putting him into a clothes dryer and turning the machine on. A jury convicted Lakeisha Adams of second-degree murder Saturday for the death of her 3-month-old son, Jailand in December 2005. The local coroner's office said the child suffered blunt force trauma to his head as well as second and third degree burns on half of his body. The mother, who also had a 1-year-old child, was 18 at the time. Police in the town of Bogalusa said Adams admitted putting the infant in the dryer and turning it on, but did not explain why. Her lawyer asked jurors to find her not guilty or not guilty by reason of insanity. Adams is expected to be sentenced later this month.

#### Kansas late-term abortion provider faces trial

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—For

## Texas pastor has advice for grieving Ill. church

MARYVILLE, Ill. (AP)—The Rev. Al Meredith was more than 700 miles away when a gunman walked into a Maryville church and gunned down its preacher in front of his horrified congregation. But the tragedy hit the Texas preacher hard, and he's coming to help.

A decade ago, another gunman fired a hail of bullets and tossed a pipe bomb down the aisle at Meredith's church in Fort Worth, killing seven people and wounding seven others, then calmly sat in a back pew and shot himself in the head.

On Sunday, services are scheduled to resume at First Baptist Church in this St. Louis suburb, one week after the intruder killed senior pastor Fred Winters with a bullet through the heart. Meredith

was invited to be the guest preacher in hopes he can draw on his experience to ease the misery at First Baptist.

"I don't have three points and a poem on how to deal with tragedy. I don't have any magic formula on how to emerge triumphantly," he told The Associated Press by telephone from Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, two days before leaving for Illinois.

"If out of our tragedy God can use (that) that give hope and help to others, then it's not worthless. It's redemptive."

Meredith said Sunday's sermon would be heavy with hope—the same kind he says his congregants, called "Wedgies"—needed after Larry Gene Ashbrook's eight-minute massacre.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB09-DPS-063**

SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: MARCH 26, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"TO CONDUCT A BASIC TRAFFIC  
INVESTIGATIONS COURSE OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC  
SAFETY, SAIPAN"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**Northern Mariana Islands  
RETIREMENT FUND**

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT  
JVA# 09-012**

OPENING DATE: March 16, 2009 CLOSING DATE: March 31, 2009

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking professionals to work in a busy and challenging office. Salary and benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidates and in compliance with CNMI laws. The following positions are available:

**Starting Salary Range**  
 Director Member Services \$28,807.51 – \$49,266.21  
 (Pay Level 35)

Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or may request a packet by e-mail from the Administrator. Application packages may be hand-delivered or sent by e-mail or postal mail. Packages must be marked "JVA# 09-012 Confidential." Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials and police clearance addressed to the following:

**Mark Aguon, Administrator**  
**NMI Retirement Fund**  
**P.O. Box 501247**  
**Saipan, MP 96950-1247**  
**E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com**

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<b>PACIFIC FINANCIAL CORPORATION,</b> Plaintiff,	<b>Civil Action No. 06-0178</b>
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vs.

<b>GREGORIO C. DELA CRUZ and BERNADITA S. DELA CRUZ,</b> Defendants.	<b>AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE</b>
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 5th, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interests of Defendants, in and to the property described as:

**Lot No. 019 H 36 (formerly known as Lot 2, Block 36), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 019 H 00, the original of which was registered on March 1, 1971, as Document No. 710, at the Saipan Land Registry Office.**

1. **Date, Time, and Place of Sale:** The sale will be held on Tuesday, March 31st, 2009, at the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus St., & Botones Ave., Garapan Beach Road, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. The sale will be open to the general public.

2. **Inspection of Property:** The property described above is located on the island of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. It is the obligation of the bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

3. **Warranties and Covenants:** All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

4. **Conduct of Sale:**  
 a. **Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any bid is accepted, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any and/or all bids, for any reason.

c. **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property at the time of the auction. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas. The bidder assumes all of risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person or through an authorized agent at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may re-submit any property listed in the Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

5. **Enforcement of Auction Sale.**  
 a. **Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit often percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of Timothy H. Bellas Law Office Trust Account, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for public sale.

6. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, the successful bidder shall sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of the property is completed at the auction.

7. **Court Approval Required.** Every sale is subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted or denied. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted or denied.

8. **Removal or Storage of Personal Property.** The successful bidder shall have one (1) working day after court approval of the sale to remove any personal property purchased from the place of sale. After the expiration of this 24-hour period, the successful bidder shall bear the entire risk of loss of or damage to such property, and shall be liable for all expenses of caring for and/or storing such property.

9. **Changes of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale, or the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidder by constructive notice.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2009.

/s/ Timothy H. Bellas  
 Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, LLC  
 Auctioneer  
 Tel. No. (670) 323-2115

**Northern Mariana Islands  
RETIREMENT FUND**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-057**

**"OFFICE SPACE LEASE/PURCHASE - ROTA"**

OPENING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009 CLOSING DATE: APRIL 15, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund  
 P.O. Box 501247  
 Saipan, MP 96950  
 Fax No.: (670) 664-8080  
 Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.



## Asia

## Pakistan arrests opposition leader Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani authorities placed opposition leader Nawaz Sharif under house arrest Sunday to stop him from taking part in a major anti-government rally, a spokesman said.

The move against former Prime Minister Sharif shows Pakistan's determination to squelch Monday's rally in the capital Islamabad but risks igniting anger among his supporters. It will also likely damage the democratic credentials

of the one-year-old government led by U.S.-backed President Asif Ali Zardari.

The arrest order came hours after the government announced its first major concession in the monthlong political crisis by pledging to appeal a disputed court ruling against Sharif and his brother.

Sharif's spokesman Pervez Rasheed said hundreds of police surrounded his house Sunday in the eastern city of Lahore.

He said officers showed Sharif aides

a detention order stipulating Sharif and his politician brother Shahbaz Sharif were to be placed under house arrest for three days. Shahbaz was not at home, said Rasheed.

There was no immediate word from Pakistani authorities.

Zardari and Sharif are under increasing pressure to reach a settlement from the United States, which fears the government is already bogged down in power struggles when it

needs to focus on economic problems, as well as Western demands for more help with the faltering war effort in neighboring Afghanistan.

Sharif vowed Saturday to go ahead with the protests, even as the government insisted it would enforce a ban, put troops on alert and warned terrorists could bomb the demonstration.

"This is a flood of people. This flood

will break all hurdles. This flood will, God willing, reach its destination," Sharif told cheering party workers in Lahore.

Nuclear-armed Pakistan lurched back toward turmoil last month when the Supreme Court disqualified Sharif and his brother from elected office, over convictions dating back to an earlier chapter in Pakistan's often vindictive political history.



A supporter of opposition leader Nawaz Sharif chants anti-government slogans in Multan, Pakistan on Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

## Tibet riot and its quelling remains suppressed

CHENGDU, China (AP)—By most accounts, it started as a Buddhist prayer ceremony, attended by monks and devoted Tibetans. It ended with police firing into a crowd of enraged protesters, and the death toll still unconfirmed.

A year after sometimes violent protests erupted in the small county seat of Aba and across Tibetan communities in the most sustained uprising against Chinese rule in decades, much remains unknown. A form of martial law and an information blockade imposed by China has stopped all but a trickle of accounts on how the protests were suppressed, while leaving some Tibetans

more resentful of Chinese rule.

"Everywhere military, troops," said a Tibetan man from Aba who gave a rare description of shootings there last year and asked that his name not be used for fear of government retaliation. "It's very hard. Tibetan people are very sad now."

Saturday marked the first anniversary of the triggering event for last year's violence—an anti-Chinese riot in Lhasa, the Tibet region's capital, that left at least 22 dead, ignited protests in three neighboring provinces and ended with Beijing flooding the region with troops.

The anniversary passed Saturday without apparent protests, as paramilitary and plainclothes police blanketed Lhasa with patrols and checkpoints. Police with rifles or batons marched around the Jokhang Temple, Tibet's holiest Buddhist temple. Officers demanded to see people's identification.

Hotel clerks and restaurant workers in Aba and other communities that saw protests last year described similar security arrangements. Independent confirmation is virtually impossible because most areas have been shut off to foreign visitors and journalists for much of the past year.

## Sri Lanka rejects UN charge of possible war crimes

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka on Saturday rejected U.N. allegations it may have committed war crimes and vowed there would be no cease-fire in its drive to capture a shrinking rebel enclave and end the island's 25-year-old civil war.

A report Friday from U.N. human rights chief Navi Pillay said government forces and Tamil rebels also warned that civilian casualties could reach "catastrophic" proportions if the two sides do not suspend fighting.

Pillay said the situation was becoming desperate and called for a halt in the fighting.

Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe questioned charges in the report that 2,800 civilians had died in recent weeks as the military has pushed into the last remaining area held by the Tamil Tigers.

"It is very, very unprofessional to rely on such unsubstantiated figures. What is dismaying to us is the figures correspond to the figures put forward by (the pro-rebel Web site) TamilNet and LTTE front groups," Samarasinghe told a news conference, referring to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

But Pillay said "a range of credible sources" showed that more than 2,800

civilians had been killed and more than 7,000 wounded since Jan. 20.

Both figures are higher than previous estimates, and Pillay said 150,000 to 180,000 people remain trapped in the rebel area—estimated at 13.5 square miles (35 square kilometers)—on Sri Lanka's northeast coast.

Pillay also said the army has repeatedly shelled inside the "no-fire" zones—an allegation that Samarasinghe denied.

"The world today is ever sensitive about such acts that could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity," Pillay said.

## RP enacts law claiming disputed islands

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president has signed a law affirming sovereignty over islands also claimed by China and Vietnam, an official said Wednesday, sparking protests over the control of strategic South China Sea islands.

The legislation, signed Tuesday by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, reaffirms Philippine sovereignty over the more than 7,100 islands in its archipelago, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said. It also claims outlying islands in the Spratly chain and Scarborough Shoal—two regions in the South China Sea.

China claims sovereignty over both chains. Vietnam and others have long laid claim to the Spratlys.

"We are sending the message to the whole world that we are affirming our national sovereignty ... our national interest," Ermita told a news conference.

The Chinese Embassy issued a statement expressing its "strong

opposition and solemn protest" over the signing of the law, and insisted China "has indisputable sovereignty over these islands and their adjacent waters."

Earlier, China's Foreign Ministry summoned a Philippine Embassy official to protest the passage of the bill in the Philippine Congress.

Vietnam also urged the Philippines to refrain from taking action that might complicate the dispute.

Foreign Affairs official Henry Ben-surto said the Philippines passed the law not to reiterate its claims over the Spratlys and Scarborough Shoal but to define the baseline used to determine its extended continental shelf.

The U.N. has asked the Philippines and other countries that signed the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea to submit the dimensions of their claimed continental shelf by May 13. The convention, which came into force in 1994, defines the maritime limits of its signatories.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

## 5 killed in Afghan operation targeting bomb-maker

KABUL (AP)—A helicopter-borne special operations mission by U.S. troops and Afghan forces early Saturday killed five people one province south of Kabul, sparking an angry protest from villagers who said the victims were civilians. The U.S. military said the combined forces called for suspects in a house to surrender during the overnight raid, but that militants opened fire, forcing the joint forces to fire back. It said the mission targeted the leader of a roadside bomb-making cell. However, a spokesman for the governor of Logar province said a government delegation traveled to the site and confirmed that five civilians had been killed. Angry villagers gathered in protest near a government compound later Saturday and police opened fire on them to prevent them from storming the building, governor's spokesman Den Mohammad Darvesh said. Two people were wounded, he said.

## Huge crocodile kills 10-year-old in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A huge crocodile knocked over a canoe in a southern Philippine lake and decapitated a 10-year-old girl, police said. The girl and a classmate were on their way to their floating school on Mihaba Lake in Agusan del Sur province when the crocodile bumped

the boat, causing it to capsize, Bunawan town police officer Melchor Danuco said Wednesday. The attack happened on Saturday but it wasn't until Monday that rescuers found the girl's headless body floating on the lake. The classmate was rescued by a man escorting the pair in another boat, said Ruel Hipulan, head of the private group that runs the school in the remote town. "It's a monster crocodile," Hipulan said, adding that officials were hunting the animal following the attack. Police said that, based on accounts of villagers, the crocodile might be as long as 7 meters (23 feet), which would be huge, even for the large salt water crocodiles known to inhabit the lake.

## Japan navy ships depart for anti-piracy mission

TOKYO (AP)—Two Japanese navy destroyers left Saturday to join an international anti-piracy mission off the coast of Somalia, despite concerns troops could be pressed into combat in violation of the country's pacifist constitution. The five-month deployment marks the first overseas policing action for Japan's military, which is limited by the country's post-World War II charter to defensive missions. The military's forays abroad have been largely restricted to refueling, airlifting and other humanitarian activities. The two Japanese destroyers, *Sazanami* and *Samidare*, which are also carrying two patrol helicopters and a pair of speedboats, are expected to reach Somali waters in early April. Together they carry about 400 sailors, including specially trained commandos.



## World

# Police find 9 bodies in Mexican border city

**CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)**—Police acting on a tip found nine bodies partially buried in the desert on the outskirts of the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez, an official said Saturday.

Investigators are searching the desert site south of the city to see whether there are any more bodies.

An official with the state prosecutor's office who declined to be named in line with department policy says a police officer's badge was found at the site. Authorities were working to identify the bodies.

State security official Enrique Torres Valadez said a total of nine bodies, seven male and two female, have been found so far.

"One was handcuffed, all were tortured," he said. "They had been there for days or maybe weeks."

Ciudad Juarez, a city of 1.3 million people across the border from El Paso, Texas, has been hit by a wave of drug-fueled violence, prompting federal authorities to dispatch thousands of soldiers.



Police and forensic officers work at the site where bodies were found in the outskirts of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Saturday, March 14, 2009.

Torres said 1,500 more troops were arriving Saturday, on top of 2,150 who

arrived Friday.

Farther east, in the border city of

Reynosa, federal police announced Saturday that they had arrested a man

who allegedly led operations there for the feared Zetas, a group of hit men for the Gulf drug cartel.

Sergio Pena Mendoza, 39, is also suspected of participating in an unsuccessful plot to free an imprisoned Zetas leader from jail in neighboring Guatemala, authorities told a news conference in Mexico City.

Pena Mendoza was arrested after he tried to flee a police patrol in a stolen pickup truck with Texas plates. Police found an assault rifle in the truck and said Pena Mendoza is suspected of killing a police official and a businessman in southern Mexico.

Interim Federal Police Commissioner Rodrigo Esparza said Pena Mendoza achieved the same rank in the Zetas—and was a possible replacement for—Jaime Gonzalez Duran, also known as "The Hummer," a founding member of the gang who was arrested in Reynosa in November.

Questioned by reporters as he was led through police installations in Mexico City, Pena Mendoza denied the accusations.

## In TV confessions, curtain lifted on a narcostate

**CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)**—When the planes arrived loaded with cocaine, it was Guinea's presidential guard that secured the cargo.

Drug deals were conducted inside the first lady's private residence and in the president's VIP salon at the international airport. To avoid detection, cocaine was sent to Europe in the country's diplomatic pouch.

As the people of Guinea sit transfixed before their TV sets, top government officials one after another

are confessing to their role in a lucrative international cocaine trade. Organized by a military junta that seized power three months ago, the confessions offer unprecedented insight into an exploding drug trade in West Africa, one that connects coca leaves grown in South American fields to cocaine in European discos.

The confessions paint a picture of an illicit trade conducted with total impunity, with the help of officials, members of the president's family and security

forces. They also show the large role Guinea and other West African countries are playing as drug hubs, and how vulnerable they are to the corrupting influence of drug dollars.

A recent United Nations report found that at least 46 tons of cocaine have been seized en route to Europe via West Africa since 2005, bringing profits that sometimes exceed the entire defense budgets of countries it passes through. Before that time, less than a ton a year was seized from the entire continent.

## N. Ireland riots after police arrest 3 over killings

**LURGAN, Northern Ireland (AP)**—Irish nationalist gangs hurled gasoline bombs at police Saturday after three alleged IRA dissidents were arrested on suspicion of killing two British soldiers in an attack designed to trigger wider violence in Northern Ireland.

Police operating in armored cars and flame-retardant suits said none of their officers was injured during the rising mob violence in the Irish Catholic end of Lurgan, a religiously divided town southwest of Bel-

fast. Rioters also blocked the main Belfast-to-Dublin railway line that runs alongside the hardline Kilwilkie neighborhood of the town.

Later, police said they arrested a 37-year-old man and 30-year-old woman, and seized a gun and ammunition in the neighboring town of Craigavon, where Irish Republican Army dissidents shot to death a policeman Monday.

Police would not say whether those arrests and the arms find were connected to the March 7 shooting of the

soldiers or the subsequent killing of the policeman. Police said the couple were being questioned about unspecified "serious terrorist crime."

The unrest came in direct response to Saturday's arrest of Colin Duffy, 41, the best-known Irish republican in Lurgan. Police arrested two other suspected Irish Republican Army dissidents aged 32 and 21 in the overwhelmingly Catholic village of Bellaghy—all on suspicion of shooting to death two soldiers last weekend.

## Women in Congo speak out about rape despite taboo

**DOSHU, Congo (AP)**—Zamuda Sikujuwa shuffles to a bench in the sunshine, pushes apart her thighs with a grimace of pain and pumps her fist up and down in a lewd-looking gesture to show how the militiamen shoved an automatic rifle inside her.

The brutish act tore apart her insides after seven of the men had taken turns raping her. She lost consciousness and wishes now that her life also had ended on that day.

The rebels from the Tutsi tribe had come demanding U.S. dollars. But when her husband could not even produce local currency, they put a gun to his head and pulled the trigger. When her two children started crying, the rebels killed them too. Then they attacked Sikujuwa and left her for dead. The 53-year-old still has difficulty walking after two operations. Yet she wants to tell the world her story, even though repeating it brings back the nightmares.

"It's hard, hard, hard," she says. "I'm alone in this world. My body is partly mended but I don't know

if my heart will ever heal. ... I want this violence to stop. I don't want other women to have to suffer what I am suffering."

Rape has been used as a brutal weapon of war in Congo, where conflicts based on tribal lines have spawned dozens of armed groups amid back-to-back civil wars that drew in several African nations. More than 5 million people have died since 1994. Women have become even more vulnerable since a rebel advance at the end of last year drove a quarter-million people from their homes and fighting this year left another 100,000 others homeless, according to aid workers.

Now some of the women are fighting back the only way they know how—by talking about what happened.

A campaign spearheaded by the U.N. Children's Fund is working with local groups to break traditional taboos around talking about the violence. They're using radio stations broadcasting in local languages, and more activists are getting to remote areas.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Aid groups in Darfur weigh future after kidnapping

**KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)**—Three foreign aid workers abducted in Sudan's lawless Darfur region were released unharmed on Saturday, three days after their capture at gunpoint led international aid groups to question how they can continue to work in the area. Sudanese television showed the Doctors Without Borders workers—a Canadian nurse, an Italian doctor and a French project coordinator—stepping off a military helicopter at El Fasher airport in North Darfur with the local governor. "I would like to say to everybody we are safe, we are here, we are in good health," said Raphael Meunier, the French coordinator, speaking

on Sudanese television. "We will be more talkative a bit later on, now our first thoughts are for our families." The governor, Osman Kebir, said Wednesday's kidnapping was carried out by a group seeking to retaliate for the International Criminal Court arrest warrant issued against President Omar al-Bashir on charges of war crimes in Darfur.

#### Austrian incest suspect Josef Fritzl faces justice

**AMSTETTEN, Austria (AP)**—For almost a quarter of a century, Josef Fritzl allegedly held his daughter as a sex slave in a cramped, rat-infested cellar where he fathered seven children with her. This week, the notorious Austrian with icy blue eyes faces justice in what is

being billed locally as the "trial of the century." The question is what justice will mean in the case of a 73-year-old who has confessed to imprisoning and repeatedly raping his daughter Elisabeth for 24 years in a windowless dungeon he built beneath the family's home. Fritzl "should definitely get put away for life," said Christian Edlinger, 18, smoking with friends outside the now-infamous Fritzl residence in Amstetten. "I can't believe I rode my moped past this house so many times without ever suspecting a thing." Prosecutors have charged Fritzl with murder, saying a child who died in infancy in 1996 might have survived if taken to a doctor. He also stands accused of rape, incest, coercion, false imprisonment and enslavement. Fritzl's lawyer,

Rudolf Mayer, told The Associated Press his client will plead guilty to most of the charges but dispute the murder and enslavement counts when the trial opens Monday in St. Poelten, west of Vienna. He also described the slavery accusation as "questionable."

#### Report: Cuba, Venezuela could host Russian bombers

**MOSCOW (AP)**—A Russian air force chief said Saturday that the country could base some strategic bombers in Cuba or on an island offered by Venezuela, the Interfax news agency reported, but a Kremlin official quickly said the military had been speaking only hypothetically. The U.S. and Russia have been trying to reset their relation-

ship, severely strained over U.S. plans to position missile defense elements in Poland and the Czech Republic and by Russia's invasion of U.S. ally Georgia last year. Russia has nothing to gain strategically from basing long-range craft within relatively short range of U.S. shores, independent military analyst Alexander Golts said, calling the military statement a retaliatory gesture aimed at hitting back after U.S. ships patrolled Black Sea waters near Georgia. The chief of staff of Russia's long range aviation, Maj. Gen. Anatoly Zhikharev, was quoted by Interfax as saying Saturday that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez had offered "a whole island with an airdrome, which we can use as a temporary base for strategic bombers."



# Health & Fitness

## On vacation? Lose a little something

By VICKY HALLETT  
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

The cliché is that women lose weight before their weddings. But I'm thinking I might slim down on my honeymoon instead.

Nope, I'm not dragging my new husband on a romantic gym getaway. We've settled on Argentina and an itinerary that calls for tangoing in San Telmo, wandering through Recoleta, whitewater rafting in Mendoza and tooling around wine country on bike. That plus a little smooching—which requires about 70 calories an hour—and I can probably get away with gelato every day.

Sounds like a NEAT plan to physician James Levine, author of the new book "Move a Little, Lose a Lot" and director of the NEAT (non-exercise activity thermogenesis) Center at the Mayo Clinic. The idea is that while one grueling treadmill session might burn 500 calories, you can easily burn twice that in a day by living actively: by, say, visiting your colleagues' offices instead of sending instant messages, strolling to a place for lunch 15 minutes away rather than brown-bagging it at your desk or choosing to self-propel for part of your next vacation rather than taking in the scene from a bus tour.

"A big part of life we've lost is being an adventurer, getting out of our chairs," Levine says. "It doesn't have to be climbing K2 on the south face."

Levine had been studying obesity when, on a business trip a decade ago, he was struck with his new weight-loss theory during a conversation in a Mexican bar with—who else?—the bartender. The gentleman was about Levine's age but looked "much more splendid," Levine says, and the secret to his youthfulness was simple: He walked his kids back and forth to school, played soccer in the neighborhood and worked on his feet.

Within a year, Levine and two colleagues had published research into the benefits of the movements of daily life—things like getting up frequently to go to the coffee shop (and then to the bathroom). And he emphasizes the importance of simple habits like maintaining an upright posture, or just fidgeting. And Mayo's NEAT

program was off and running. (The "thermogenesis" part of the acronym means heat creation—that is, burning calories.)

America has skillfully managed to export obesity, but there are still plenty of folks around the world like that bartender who can provide role models. Just follow the advice of Keith Bellows, editor of National Geographic Traveler, who encourages his readers to "try to live like a local." In Beijing, it may mean practicing tai chi near the Forbidden City, while in Paris it could be

visiting her in Philly run up the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art like Rocky. (Or at least try.)

Not only will the extra activity allow you to indulge a bit more in the breakfast buffet, it'll also immerse you in the local scene. Michael Gazaleh, founder of City Running Tours, which offers guided jogs in Washington, New York, Chicago, San Diego, Charleston and Austin, says that he runs wherever he wakes up. "If I don't run, I don't feel like myself," he says.

The extra perk when he's away from home with his running shoes is that he can discover a new world. "You'll find these streets that cars can't go down and make your way through parks," he says. All the while, he's getting a feel for the layout of the city and getting a sense of things he might want to take in at a slower pace later.

Taking on unfamiliar streets on your own might be more adventure than some people are up to—although concierges and the Web site Mapmyrun.com can help provide routes and sometimes even running buddies. And for a fee, City Running Tours makes the experience about as excuse-free as possible: A guide with a pack of water, snacks, a souvenir T-shirt and a camera (for proof of your athleticism) shows up at your hotel lobby and takes you as far as you want as fast as you want to the area you want and brings you safely home.

Levine insists that NEAT living can start at any time. Like right now, you could stand up to read this and burn more calories than you would seated. That's why he developed a treadmill/desk combo that allows people to amble at 1 mph while they're at the office.

But through his work with thousands of patients coming through his lab, Levine has come to realize that vacations provide a unique opportunity to kick-start a lifestyle change. You no longer can rely on those usual justifications for avoiding activity. No boss is there to blow up if you're not glued to your chair, there's no need to wear dress clothes that you worry about getting sweaty, and there's no getting stuck in rush-hour traffic for hours on end.



using a rent-a-bike to get around town. "It's so easy. You put a coin in a slot and you can ride it across the city," he says.

And wherever you go, he advises, bring good walking shoes. Even if you're not usually a wanderer, the chance of every amble being a once-in-a-lifetime moment can persuade your legs to hold out longer than usual. Jennifer Di Mucci of Contiki Tours, constantly hears travelers amazed by the distance they've managed to log in a day. "With them, it's mind over matter. They would never walk 17 miles at home, but there was so much to see and try," says Di Mucci, who recommends that anyone

## New debate on how to decide best health treatments

WASHINGTON (AP)—People's lives and plenty of money are at stake when it comes to determining which medical treatments work best.

So some prominent health industry and patient advocacy groups are trying to reframe the debate over how such decisions are made in order to ensure their interests are protected.

Spurred by \$1.1 billion in the recent economic stimulus bill for "comparative effectiveness research," their coalition unveiled a new campaign Thursday with a prominent Democrat and disability rights advocate, former California Rep. Tony Coelho, as its spokesman.

Coelho, who has epilepsy and was a key sponsor of the Americans With Disabilities Act, said the issue comes down to whether disabled people and other patients would get the medical care they need.

"On this issue we need to be at the table," Coelho said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Comparative analysis is wonderful, if it's done appropriately."

Coelho's concerns about what could happen if it's not done right line up with those articulated most loudly until now by Republicans and conservative commentators—that "comparative effectiveness" could morph into "cost effectiveness," with bean-counting government bureaucrats refusing treatments to patients who need them.

It's a big concern for drug and biotech companies too since they could lose out if a treatment they've developed is found to be less effective than a competitor's. But a drug company's bottom line isn't likely to draw as much public sympathy as a disabled person's needs.

That makes Coelho a good face for

the Partnership to Improve Patient Care, which formed as the issue began to surface last fall and is funded by groups including the Easter Seals, Friends of Cancer Research, the Alliance for Aging Research, the Advanced Medical Technology Association and the powerful pharmaceutical and biotech industry lobbies.

The partnership also includes some minority and women's groups, mostly as nonpaying members. These groups say they can be underrepresented in studies of medical procedures and want to ensure that doesn't happen with the stimulus money.

The fear is that "research done with a very limited segment of the population would be applied to everyone," Alicia Diaz, federal affairs director for the Cuban American National Council, said after the partnership's press conference Thursday.

## Arthritis starting to affect younger people

By LIZ ATWOOD  
(C) 2009, THE BALTIMORE SUN

Arthritis affects almost 80 percent of Americans. And those affected are getting younger, according to Dr. Barry Waldman of OrthoMaryland and director of the Center for Joint Preservation and Replacement at the Rubin Institute for Advanced Orthopedics at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore.

"We don't really know why, but we're seeing an epidemic of patients with wearing out of joints in their 40s and even late 30s." But the good news, Waldman says, is that diet and exercise are the best ways to treat the disease.

### Question: What is arthritis?

Answer: The word means inflammation of the joint. This inflammation causes the cartilage in the joint to wear out. As it wears out, it causes four problems: pain, redness, swelling and deformity.

### Q: Are all those symptoms usually present?

A: No. They don't have to be. And there are all kinds of arthritis. The one we're most familiar with is osteoarthritis, the premature wearing out of the joints. There are other kinds caused by a number of diseases called inflammatory arthritis.

### Q: Who is most susceptible to osteoarthritis?

A: Past trauma and family history can play a role. But the vast majority of people just get it, and we don't know why.

### Q: How is it diagnosed?

A: Generally by X-ray.

### Q: What are the most common symptoms people experience?

A: Pain and swelling. The pain tends to be worse when they are sedentary. When they're active, the joint hurts less.

### Q: Why?

A: We don't know, but cartilage tends to be healthier when it's moving.

### Q: When should someone seek treatment?

A: When the symptoms are interfering with things they want to do, whether it is walking or exercising.

### Q: Are there other conditions people could have that would give the same symptoms?

A: It could be an injury, but generally there are not a lot of disorders you can confuse with arthritis.

### Q: Does delaying treatment make the condition worse?

A: We encourage people to see a doctor because there are some kinds of arthritis that can be slowed down with medication.

### Q: Some people say weather makes their arthritis worse. Does research support that?

A: There have been a lot of studies done on arthritis and weather, and it seems that weather doesn't make a difference in arthritis pain.

### Q: What are the treatment options for those with osteoarthritis?

A: We always try things that aren't surgery first. The best early treatment is exercise. Getting the muscles stronger around the joint will help. The next thing we try is acetaminophen, otherwise known as Tylenol. Then we move on to anti-inflammatory medicines like Motrin or Alleve. If that doesn't work, there are medicines we can inject into the knee or shoulders. We can try anti-inflammatories like cortisone. We have one injectable medicine made of cartilage that can act as a cushioning agent.

### Q: Do over-the-counter remedies such as glucosamine help?

A: There was recently a large study that (the National Institutes of Health) did that found that glucosamine and chondroitin didn't help improve arthritis; it was very ineffective. The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons now recommends against taking it.

### Q: What about arthroscopic surgery?

A: One of the complications of arthritis is that a big piece of cartilage can come loose inside the joint. Arthroscopic surgery can be very helpful in that case, but for most people, just washing out the joint with surgery won't help.



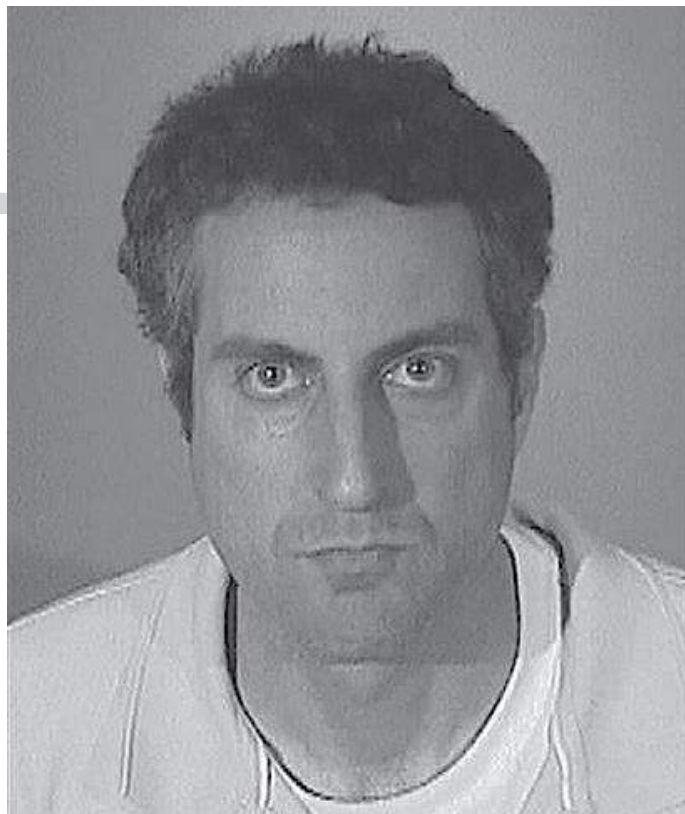
# Life & Style

## AG: Anna Nicole Smith's boyfriend was 'enabler'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anna Nicole Smith's lawyer-turned-boyfriend was the principal enabler in a conspiracy with two doctors to provide the "known addict" thousands of prescription pills in the months before she died of an overdose, California Attorney General Jerry Brown said Friday.

Howard K. Stern and Drs. Khristine Eroshevich and Sandeep Kapoor were charged by Los Angeles County prosecutors after a two-year probe by the attorney general, state medical and insurance officials and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

"Doctors do not have a license to pump innocent and often vul-



In this image released by the Whittier Police Department Howard Stern is shown during his booking Thursday March 12, 2009.

AP

## Stars flock to Australian wildfire benefit concert

SYDNEY (AP)—Grammy-winning British rockers Coldplay and the recently reunited Midnight Oil rallied huge crowds Saturday for benefit concerts to raise funds for victims of Australia's deadly wildfires.

Tens of thousands turned out in Sydney and Melbourne, with organizers hoping to raise 5 million Australian dollars (\$3.3 million). Fires ripped across southern Victoria state last month, killing at least 210 people and destroying thousands of homes.

Some of the money was also set aside for victims of recent devastating floods in Queensland state that left hundreds homeless.

As images of the fire devastation flashed across giant screens at both venues, the raucous crowds fell quiet to observe a minute's silence. Australian pop icon Kylie Minogue then took the stage in Melbourne to address the audience before performing Peter Allen's hit, "I

Still Call Australia Home."

"I think that the minute's silence probably says more than any of us could say," Minogue said. "There's a thing we talk about a lot, which is the Australian spirit, and I believe that it's in evidence tonight all around the country."

The Melbourne concert was headlined by Midnight Oil, which broke up in 2002 when frontman Peter Garrett—now Australia's environment minister—left to pursue a career in politics. They reunited earlier this week for two warm-up gigs and took the stage Saturday to deafening cheers.

In Sydney, Coldplay lead singer Chris Martin hopped off stage and ran through the crowd embracing fans after the band's set, which included their hits "Yellow" and "Viva La Vida."

"Today's the only day in the world where we can claim to be honorary Australians," Martin said. "Thank you for

letting us be part of this very special event."

Messages of support from Prince William and Prince Harry were also telecast at both venues.

"Like so many people throughout the world, both of us have watched the devastating news about the catastrophic bushfires in Victoria and the floods in Queensland," William said.

"For those survivors who've lost someone they love, we can only imagine what they must be going through. For them and for all those left injured or homeless, the tragedy is far from over."

Olivia Newton-John, who closed the night's entertainment in Sydney, said she felt compelled to return to her home country for the event.

"I was devastated, particularly the images of the animals," she said. "It's just shocking, so shocking."

nerable people full of dangerous chemicals," Brown told a news conference. "Somebody died here, and this is bad business."

In addition to conspiracy, the charges filed Thursday include unlawfully prescribing a controlled substance and prescribing, administering or dispensing a controlled substance to an addict. Stern faces six felony counts and the doctors face seven each.

Each defendant faces up to five years, eight months in prison, district attorney spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said. "Howard K. Stern is the principal enabler, and Dr. Eroshevich and Dr. Kapoor are prescribing drugs excessively to a known addict and using false and fictitious names, all in violation of the law," Brown said.

Medical Board of California spokeswoman Candis Cohen said action would be taken against the two doctors' medical licenses after the criminal proceedings had been resolved. A range of disciplinary action could be taken, depending on the evidence, including possible revocation of their licenses.

Smith's life had become a tabloid fixture by the time she died Feb. 8, 2007, in Florida. Embroiled in a battle to inherit

millions of dollars from her late billionaire husband's estate, her own son had died shortly after she gave birth to a girl.

Asked what may have been the motive for the alleged conspiracy, Brown suggested the potent allure of wealth and glamour.

"There's a certain psychic gain here, part of the glitz and the celebrity and the power. There's a lot of money floating around," he said. "Is it self-indulgence? Is it some power trip? Is it just getting some contact high off of celebrity? That remains to be seen."

Stern and Kapoor turned themselves in Thursday night and each posted \$20,000 bond. Eroshevich was expected to surrender Monday.

Her attorney, Adam Braun, acknowledged Eroshevich wrote some of the prescriptions using fictitious names for Smith, but asserted it was for privacy reasons and not intended to commit fraud.

Braun said Eroshevich began treating Smith in September 2006 when she suffered a nervous breakdown stemming from the death of her 20-year-old son, Daniel Smith, from an accidental drug overdose three days after his mother gave

birth to a girl.

Brown declined to comment when asked if there was a trail leading to Daniel Smith from doctors in California, nor did he comment on whether other individuals may face charges.

"We have given you the evidence that we think is ready for the prosecution," he said.

Eroshevich, who was Smith's psychiatrist, traveled several times over six months to the Bahamas, where Smith was living with Stern and wrote the prescriptions.

The criminal complaint also alleges Kapoor gave her excessive amounts of sleep aids, opiates, muscle relaxants and methadone-like drugs used to treat addiction, knowing she was an addict. Kapoor saw Smith in the spring of 2006 when she was treated at a Los Angeles County hospital for opiate withdrawal and prenatal care for the pregnancy of her daughter Dannielynn, according to the complaint.

Stern's attorney L. Lin Wood said he anticipated releasing a statement about the case sometime Friday.

Kapoor's attorney, Ellyn Garofalo, said the charges were without merit.

## DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of the Late

## Richard Ernest Miranda

Born to life on August 28, 1945

Passed away on March 6, 2009

at the age of 63.

**Wife:** Ailene A. Miranda  
**Mother:** Consuelo Ruelas  
**Father:** Christobal Miranda  
**Mother-in-Law:** Maui Arlay  
**Father-in-Law:** Dionisio Arlay  
**Brothers:** Leo, Hector  
**Sister:** Linda Stella  
**Sons:** Ricky, Robert Miranda  
**Granddaughter:** Britny  
**Adopted Children:** Arpil, Jolly, Maluo, Jr Miranda  
**Step Grandchildren:** Ariel, AJ

Last respect will be held on Monday, March 16, 2009 at CHC Chapel from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Christian Burial will follow at the Veterans Cemetery at 9:00 a.m. on the same day.

Thank You for your thoughts and prayers

**THE FAMILY**



Australian Minister for the Environment Peter Garrett performs in his band Midnight Oil in Canberra, Australia, Thursday, March 12, 2009.

AP



# Chaos erupts in crowd at NYC 'Top Model' auditions

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Three people were arrested and six others hurt Saturday after bedlam broke out while they waited to audition for "America's Next Top Model," police said.

Police didn't know what prompted the chaos involving hundreds of people outside the Park Central New York hotel in Manhattan. The panic left the street outside the hotel littered with shoes and clothing, according to news reports.

"It was pretty scary," Jessica Paravati told WNYW-TV. She said she was caught up in a stampede after waiting on line overnight, hoping for a shot at stardom on the reality show.

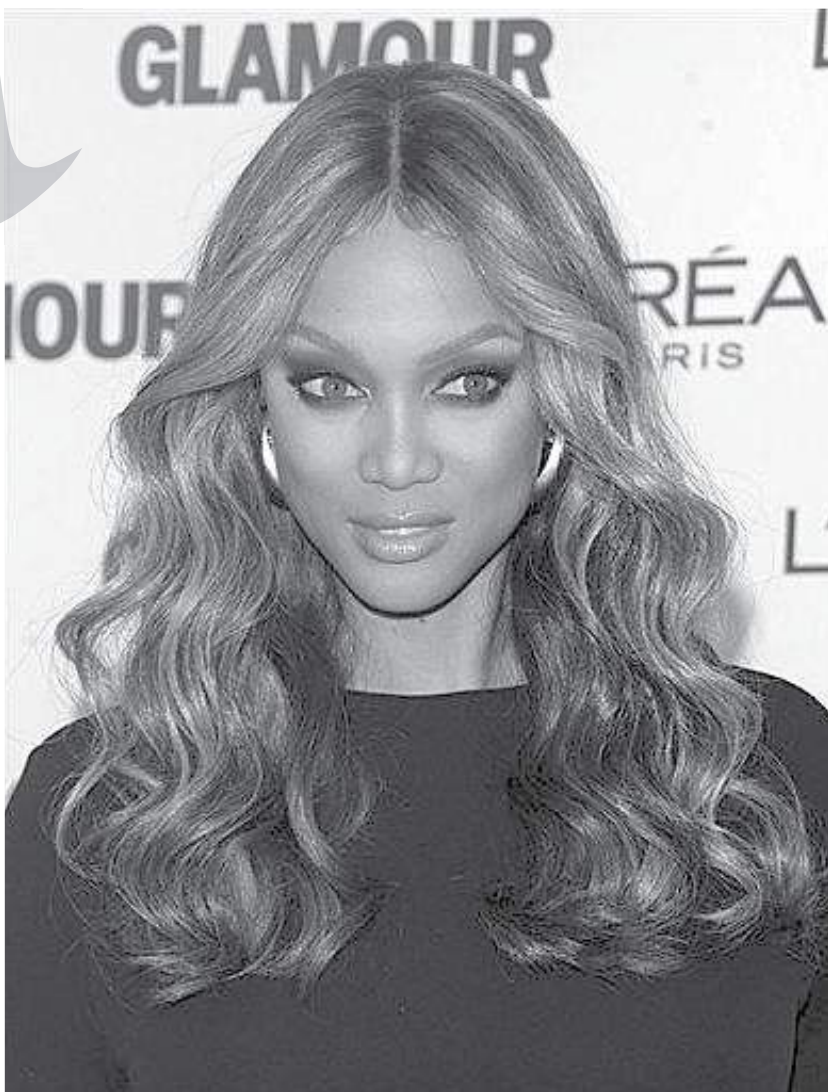
Two women and a man were arrested on disorderly conduct charges, police said. Authorities also shut down the audition, saying it wasn't properly organized.

Four injured people declined treatment, while two others were taken to a hospital, the fire department said. Their conditions weren't immediately available.

The hotel's phone rang unanswered. Representatives for The CW Network, which airs the show, released a statement saying it was working with authorities investigating the incident.

The model competition is hosted by supermodel Tyra Banks, who also serves as its executive producer. The current season began March 4.

Her agent and publicist didn't immediately return telephone calls.



In this Nov. 10, 2008 file photo, TV Personality Tyra Banks attends the 2008 Glamour Women of the Year Awards at Carnegie Hall in New York.

## Jon Stewart puts spotlight on CNBC and meltdown

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The feud between Jon Stewart and CNBC's Jim Cramer has been good for laughs—and ratings—but has also raised the serious question of whether the experts at TV's No. 1 financial news network should have seen the meltdown coming and warned the public.

Over the past two weeks, Stewart's "Daily Show" on Comedy Central has ridiculed CNBC personalities, including Cramer, the manic host of "Mad Money," by airing video clips of them making exuberantly bullish statements about the market and various investment banks shortly before they collapsed.

Stewart has charged that people at CNBC knew what was going on behind the scenes on Wall Street but didn't tell the public. He has accused CNBC anchors and pundits of abandoning their journalistic duties and acting like cheerleaders for the market. "In a tremendous boom period, they covered the boom and people wanted to believe in the boom," said Andrew Leckey, a former CNBC anchor and now president of the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism at Arizona State University. "They didn't uncover the lies that were told to them. Nobody did. But they should be held to a higher responsibility."

But Don Hodges, chairman of Hodges Capital Management in Dallas, said he doesn't fault CNBC for not seeing the bust coming.

"I'm not sure that anybody had seen it coming," he said. "I've listened to all of the so-called experts, and it's obvious that everybody is very confused."

Cramer, for his part, appeared on "The Daily Show" on Thursday and was interrogated Mike Wallace-style by Stewart. Cramer acknowledged that

he made mistakes but said that he and CNBC weren't alone.

Like other Wall Street professionals, Joe Saluzzi, co-head of equity trading at Themis Trading LLC, said it was plain CNBC was bullish during the run-up in the economy over the past few years. But he said his job was to do his homework and not to make decisions based strictly on what he heard on TV.

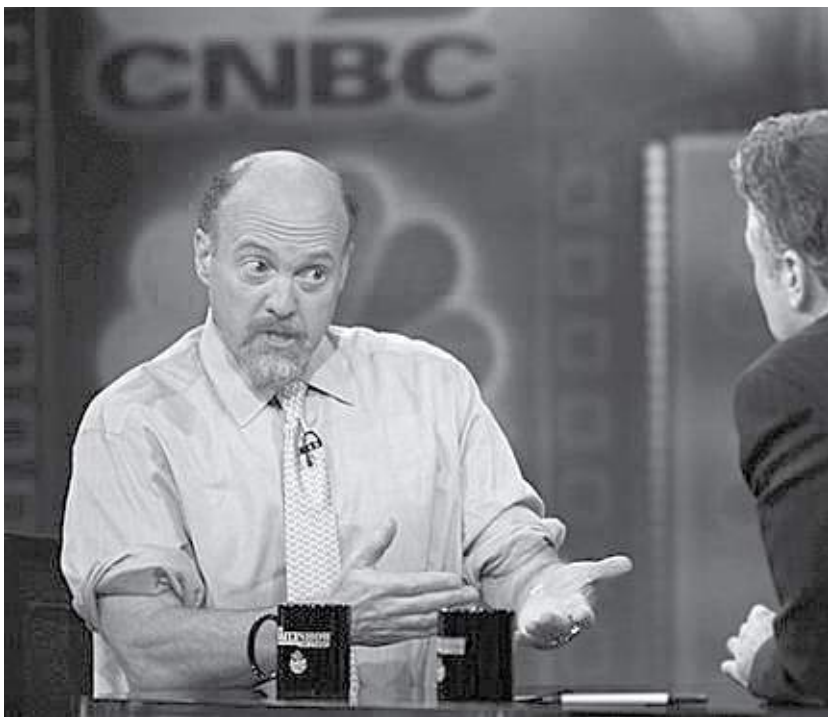
The questions raised about CNBC are similar to those journalists faced about what was reported during the months before the Iraq War.

CNBC spokesman Brian Steel noted that the network "produces more than 150 hours of live television a week that includes more than 850 interviews in the service of exposing all

sides of every critical financial and economic issue." He added: "We are proud of our record."

All of the cable news networks recognize the growing popularity of shows with a strong point of view. But is there too much talking and not enough reporting?

"They need some adult supervision about what people get to pop off about over there, even if it is opinion," said Dean Starkman, managing editor of Columbia Journalism Review's The Audit, which focuses on the business press. "They need to look into the mirror and see how close they are intellectually and emotionally with the people they cover. They need to sit back and get some critical distance."



In this Thursday, March 12, 2009 photo, Jim Cramer, left, host of the "Mad Money" show on CNBC, talks with Jon Stewart during an appearance on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" in New York.

Banks has said she created the show to counter stereotypes about beauty, and Saturday's auditions were open only to women no taller than 5-foot-7, which is shorter than the industry's conventions.

Tryouts also were being held this

month around the country, including in Dallas, Chicago and Los Angeles.

At least one would-be contestant in the New York throng said the tumult wouldn't stop her from trying again.

"This is my dream, so I'm not going to give up," Gifty Asika told WNBC-TV.

## Bozo the Clown creator Alan Livingston dies at 91

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Alan W. Livingston, the music executive who created Bozo the Clown and signed the Beatles during his tenure as president of Capitol Records, has died. He was 91.

Livingston died Friday of age-related causes in his Beverly Hills home, said his stepdaughter, Jennifer Lerner.

Livingston began his multifaceted career in show business as a writer and producer of children's read-along record albums for Capitol Records. He came up with the Bozo the Clown character for the 1946 album "Bozo at the Circus," which became a hit and spawned a cottage industry of merchandise and the television series featuring the wing-haired clown.

When he moved into executive positions at Capitol Records in the early 1950s, Livingston signed Frank Sinatra, then at a low point in his career, and introduced him to arranger Nelson Riddle. Together, the pair produced "I've Got the World on a String" and "Young At Heart," which led to Sinatra's comeback. Livingston left the record label in the late 1950s to work in television, where he produced the western series "Bonanza." He returned to Capitol Records

as president in the 1960s, when he signed the Beach Boys and Steve Miller and the Band.

When Livingston heard the Beatles song "I Want to Hold Your Hand," he agreed to release the single and brought the Fab Four to the United States in 1964 to promote it. Capitol, which was partly owned by the Beatles' record company EMI in the United Kingdom, earlier had rejected the group's initial hit singles as unsuitable for the American market.

"He had great taste and judgment, as far as musical talent, and as an executive, he was always very mentoring, very supportive," said Neil Portnow, the president and CEO of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, who worked with Livingston in the 1970s.

In addition to Lerner, Livingston is survived by his wife Nancy Olson, one son, one daughter, and another stepdaughter.

His late brother Jay Livingston, who died in 2001, was a composer who teamed with songwriter Ray Evans to produce such standards as "Mona Lisa," "Silver Bells" and "Que Sera, Sera (Whatever Will Be, Will Be)" and the theme music for "Bonanza."



In this July 12, 2001 file photo Bozo the Clown, played by Joey D'Auria, shares a laugh with Alan Livingston, who created the original Bozo character in 1946, following the taping of "Bozo: 40 Years of Fun."

## Tenor Philip Webb makes surprise Met debut

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Tenor Philip Webb made a surprise Metropolitan Opera debut Friday night, replacing an ailing Marcelo Alvarez as Manrico for the second half of Verdi's "Il Trovatore."

Webb, Alvarez's cover singer, had a pleasant sound and nice color but didn't have quite enough power at times for a hall the size of the Met. His voice was slightly constricted at the top of "Di quella pira," and the bearded tenor moved well despite being a bit burly. The crowd gave him a warm ovation during the curtain calls, and he visibly exhaled. Baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky gave Webb a warm hug.

Webb grew up outside Kansas City, Mo., and was a church music minister when he entered a vocal competition in 1993. He won first prize, earning an opera seminar and master classes with

bass Giorgio Tozzi. Webb had never seen a professional opera production at the time, according to his Web site.

He started studying with soprano/mezzo-soprano Margaret Harshaw later in 1993 and with tenor Carlo Bergonzi in 2001. According to his Web site, he has sung with several U.S. companies, including New York City Opera, Madison Opera, Sarasota Opera and Utah Opera.

Met spokesman Jonathan Tichler said Alvarez had felt too ill at intermission to continue the performance.

The rest of the cast remained the same as at the Feb. 16 premiere of the David McVicar production: soprano Sondra Radvanovsky (Leonora), mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick (Azucena), Hvorostovsky (Count di Luna) and bass Kwangchul Youn (Ferrando), with Gianandrea Noseda conducting.



# California court issues warrant for Lindsay Lohan

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—An arrest warrant has been issued for actress Lindsay Lohan, possibly in connection with a 2007 drunken driving arrest after she crashed her Mercedes-Benz into a tree, police said Saturday.

A judge at Los Angeles Superior Court in Beverly Hills issued the warrant on Friday and it carries a bail amount of \$50,000, Sgt. Mike Foxen said.

"We believe it has to do with her arrest for DUI," Foxen said. He said he did not have any other details about the warrant.

Shawn Chapman Holley, Lohan's attorney, said in a statement Saturday that her client has complied with the terms of probation and all court orders.

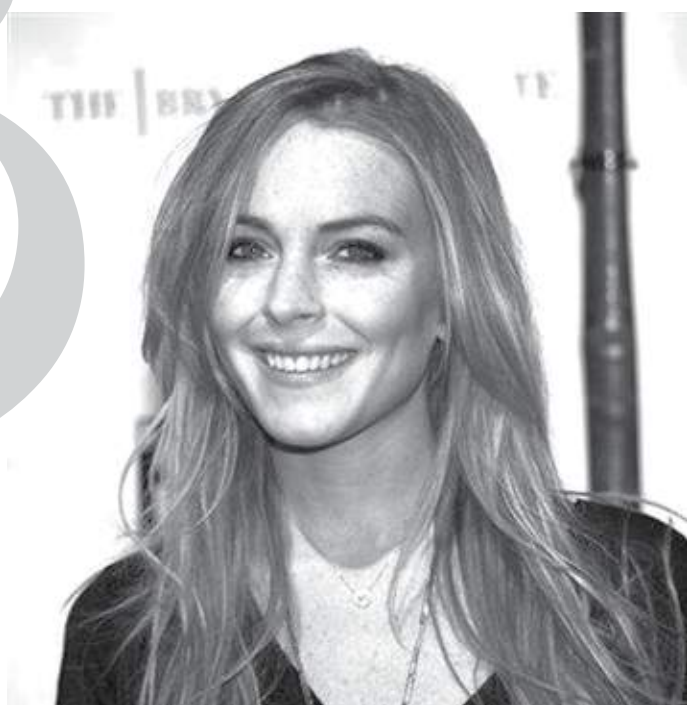
"The warrant issued on Friday was, in our view, born out of a misunderstanding which I am confident I can clear up next week," she said.

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office had not been formally advised that a warrant was issued, spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons said.

However, a court hearing for Lohan is scheduled for Monday and it "apparently has something to do with Ms. Lohan's probation," Gibbons said. "We don't know exactly what it's about. The court contacted the defense directly, not us."

The 22-year-old star of the 2004 movie "Mean Girls" was arrested during the Memorial Day weekend in 2007 after crashing her Mercedes in Beverly Hills.

She was arrested again last July after the mother of her former personal assistant reported that her car was being chased by an SUV. Police said Lohan was



AP  
In this Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008, file photo, Actress Lindsay Lohan attends FEARnet's 2nd anniversary party at The Cellar Bar, in New York.

at the wheel of the SUV and she was arrested in Santa Monica.

In connection with those cases, Lohan pleaded guilty in Au-

gust 2007 to two misdemeanor counts of being under the influence of cocaine; no contest to two counts of driving with a blood-alcohol level above 0.08 percent and one count of reckless driving.

Lohan spent 84 minutes in jail and had to perform community service and undergo drug-rehabilitation treatment.

At the time, she released a statement through her publicist that read: "It is clear to me that my life has become completely unmanageable because I am addicted to alcohol and drugs."

Lohan also was placed on probation for three years. A prosecutor warned that she if she violated the terms of the probation Lohan could face up to a year in jail on each of the drunk-driving and cocaine charges and 90 days on the reckless-driving charge. Violations could include failing to complete a drug test or report to her probation officer.

## Rare Superman comic sells for \$317,200

**NEW YORK (AP)**—A rare copy of the first comic book featuring Superman has sold for \$317,200 in an Internet auction. The previous owner had bought it for less than a buck.

It's one of the highest prices ever paid for a comic book, a likely testament to the volume's rarity and its excellent condition, said Stephen Fishler, co-owner of the auction site Comic-Connect.com and its sister dealership, Metropolis Collectibles.

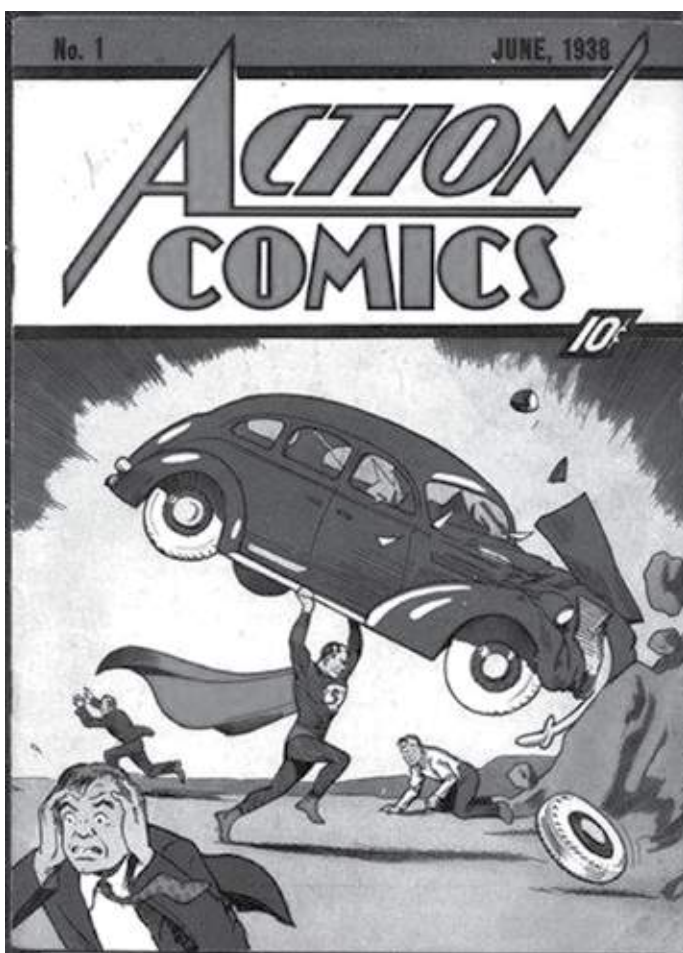
The winning bid for the 1938 edition of Action Comics No. 1, which features Superman lifting a car on its cover, was submitted Friday evening by John Dolmayan, drummer for the rock band System of a Down, according to managers at Comic-Connect.com.

Dolmayan, who is also a dealer of rare comic books, said he acquired the Superman comic on behalf of a client he declined to identify.

"This is one of the premier books you could collect," he said in a telephone interview. "It's considered the Holy Grail of comic books. I talked to my client, and we made the move."

Dolmayan said the client has "a small collection, but everything he has is incredible."

Only about 100 copies



AP  
In this file photo released by Metropolis Collectibles, Friday, Feb. 27, 2009 in New York, the June, 1938 cover of Action Comics is shown.

of Action Comics No. 1 are known to exist and they seldom come up for sale.

"Maybe in a booming economy, it would have done a hundred grand more, but in this economy, I think the price is

great," Fishler said.

The man who had previously owned the book purchased it in a secondhand store in the early 1950s when he was nine years old.

He paid 35 cents.

## Ex-WWE champ, Andrew Martin, found dead in Fla.

**TAMPA, Fla.** (AP)—Authorities say former professional wrestler Andrew Martin, who was known as "Test" and "The Punisher" to fans, has died at his Tampa home. He was 33.

The former World Wrestling Entertainment champion was found dead at his apartment Fri-

day night. Police say a neighbor reported that she could see into his apartment window and that Martin appeared motionless for several hours.

Police say there was no indication of foul play. A cause of death will be determined after an autopsy.

During his time with Stamford, Conn.-based World Wrestling Entertainment, Martin held the Intercontinental, European and Hardcore belts. He was also a tag-team champion.

Martin most recently worked for TNA Wrestling under the name "The Punisher."

## New mom reluctantly uses bathroom as pumping station

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a new mom who works in a high-tech start-up company that does not provide a mother's room. I'm the first employee here to have a baby. The corporate plaza in which my office is located also doesn't provide one. Therefore, I must resort to using the restroom to pump my breast milk, which must be done every few hours.

Some of the women using the restroom have wondered aloud about the "weird noise" they hear, while others walk back and forth searching for the source of the "sound."

How should I respond to them? Using the restroom is not my choice, but it is the only option I have because I plan to breast-feed my baby for as long as I can.

PRIVACY PLEASE IN SANTA CLARA, CALIF.

**DEAR PRIVACY PLEASE:** You're reacting as if pumping breast milk is something to be ashamed of. It isn't. While you may be the first woman at the company to have given birth, I guarantee you won't be the last. So start communicating with the other female co-workers. It might be in all of your best interests to bring this to the attention of your supervisor or your boss.

And as to the "pacers" and "wonderers" in the restroom—try to understand that they are merely curious. Consider printing a sign you can tape to the door of the stall you occupy that reads: "Breast Pumping Station." It will stop the questions and save you from yelling out, "It's my breast pump!"

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I was a stay-at-home mom for many years and enrolled in college when my youngest entered kindergarten. I held various part-time (and later full-time) dead-end jobs to supplement my husband's income. It took 15 years, but I finally graduated with a B.A. in history, although I have since discovered there isn't much I can do with my degree.

After almost 30 years of marriage, my husband decided he wanted a divorce. I am now on my own and struggling to survive. I have no marketable skills, can't afford to attend school full-time because I must work in order to have benefits, and don't have the money to pay for more training without going into further debt. I don't know how I'll ever be self-supporting.

My current job pays \$10 an hour, the benefits are good, but I don't really like my job or see myself ever earning a higher hourly wage. If it wasn't for alimony, I'd be even worse off, but that won't last forever. (I have three years left.)

I'm thankful that my kids are on their own and don't need my support, but they can't help me either. What options are there for someone in my situation?

FRUSTRATED IN NORTH CAROLINA

**DEAR FRUSTRATED:** You are an educated, literate, mature college graduate. You could make some executive an excellent, competent personal assistant. Depending upon what the requirements are in your state, you might also be able to be a teacher's assistant in one of the schools.

Contact an employment agency and ask if it can give you a skill assessment. I am sure you could find a job where your attributes would be appreciated if you start looking.

■ ■ ■

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby—Letter Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

## Pattinson: New role's 'naked stuff' uncomfortable

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Robert Pattinson says he wasn't prepared to film his first sex scenes for the upcoming period drama "Little Ashes."

The "Twilight" actor portrays Spanish artist Salvador Dali as a young man. He tells GQ magazine's April issue that he was uncomfortable as crew members watched and giggled during his graphic interlude with a male co-star.

"In a lot of ways, I was kind of crossing lines of what I thought I was comfortable doing," he said. "I had to do all this naked stuff."

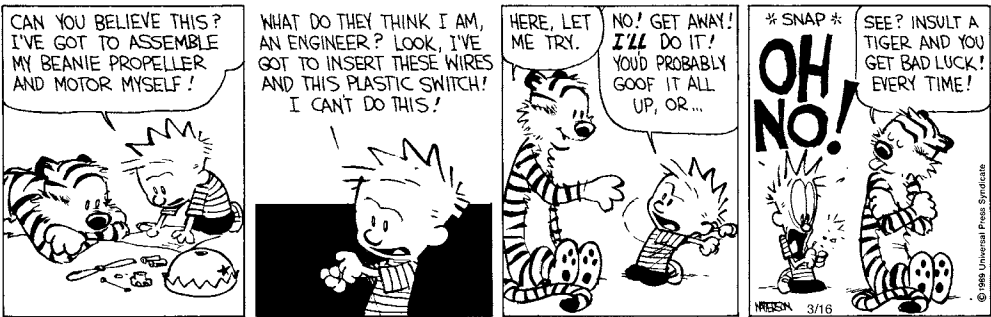
The British heartthrob says he wanted to try "something weird," but the part was more difficult than he'd anticipated.

Pattinson has found a way to take the edge off before: Pattinson says he took a quarter of a Valium pill before his "Twilight" audition.



Pastimes

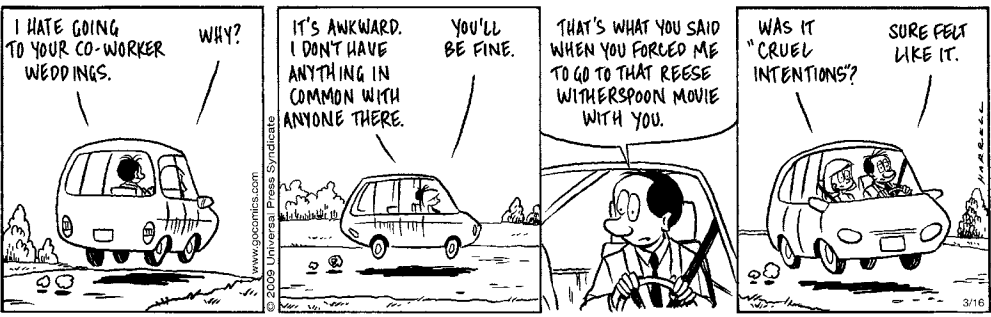
Calvin and Hobbes



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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Im-presses greatly

5 Youngster in a cave

8 White-glove discovery

12 Fish with a prehensile tail

14 Norway's capital

15 Lima bein'?

16 Paper quantity

17 Vat

18 Heavy hammer

20 Photo book

23 Fraud

24 Hen pen

25 G.B.S. devotee

28 Right angle

29 Island farewell

30 Shelter from the storm

32 Riga resident

34 Barrel

35 Denomination

36 Flavor

37 Current measure

40 Supporting

41 Laugh-a-minute

42 Flood-related

47 Misfortunes

48 As one

49 Lotion additive

50 Baby food

51 Roy's wife

5 Nursery feature

6 Can. neighbor

7 Famed social-realist painter

8 "Sound of Music" song

9 Second-hand

10 Refuse

11 Big book

13 Egg

19 Volcano's outflow

20 Expert

21 Hang out in the

22 Gaucho's weapon

23 Young hog

25 Cut into slivers

26 "Sad to say ..."

27 Egg container

29 State with conviction

31 — out a living

33 Dangerous fly

34 Chiseled

36 Racetrack adviser

37 Met melody

38 Pepper dispenser

39 Horseback game

40 Buy, renovate and sell quickly

43 — pinch

44 Greek mountain

45 Every last bit

46 "Science Guy" Bill

Solution time: 24 mins.

Saturday's answer 3-16

SHES GABS SOB  
PALM AREA AVA  
ALBA LIMP RUB  
NEAL ADO LIME  
LOX APU  
FROSTY NICHES  
BIRTH SKATE  
IMBUED CAYMAN  
FRY INS  
CALF NUN TARO  
OHIO PARE ICON  
WON IMAM FRAU  
LYE COLA FEDS

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Judah Friedlander, 40; Lauren Graham, 42; Bernardo Bertolucci, 69; Jerry Lewis, 83

**Happy Birthday:** Too much to deal with and not enough time to make things go the way you want will be challenging. This is a year when you must focus, concentrate and tunnel in, getting to the point that will make the biggest difference to your future. Set a pattern that will allow you to speed up the process of completion. Your numbers are 4, 12, 13, 26, 29, 33, 48

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Be careful with your money. A contract or chance to negotiate a better deal or even barter for a good price will all be necessary if you want to put a little aside. Make some improvements that will help you to market your talents. \*\*\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Don't let your stubbornness keep you from accomplishing what needs to be done. Put your feelings aside and work alongside others, even if you don't necessarily agree with them. Anger will get you nowhere. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Do whatever has to be done without hassle. As soon as you let others meddle or interfere, you will lose your pace and end up foregoing your original plan. Make decisions that can affect your professional outlook without letting your emotions take over. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Don't get all upset about what's happening around you. In the end, it will be to your benefit to accept and adapt to the changes that unfold.

Emotional outbursts will lead to mistakes and mishaps, setting you back financially and possibly physically. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You may feel like spending but you shouldn't. Love and adventure are likely to overpower you, making for an exciting but expensive day. Think before you decide to go overboard in any way. Excess will be your enemy. \*\*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Stick to your own devices and let others do as they please. A service or idea you have that brings more leisure time or comfort to others will turn out to be a lucrative investment. Explore the possibilities. \*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You can talk your way in or out of anything. Your opinions will be taken seriously and help to get things underway will be offered. You have lots to gain from interacting with people from different backgrounds. \*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Use your ingenuity to come up with whatever solution you need to move forward with a project. Talk is not going to get things done but actions will. Put your ego aside, admit if you need help and finish what you began so long ago. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Emotional issues will be difficult to avoid and upsetting to deal with. It's best to let others do the talking while you sort out what you must do. End any relationships that aren't working. \*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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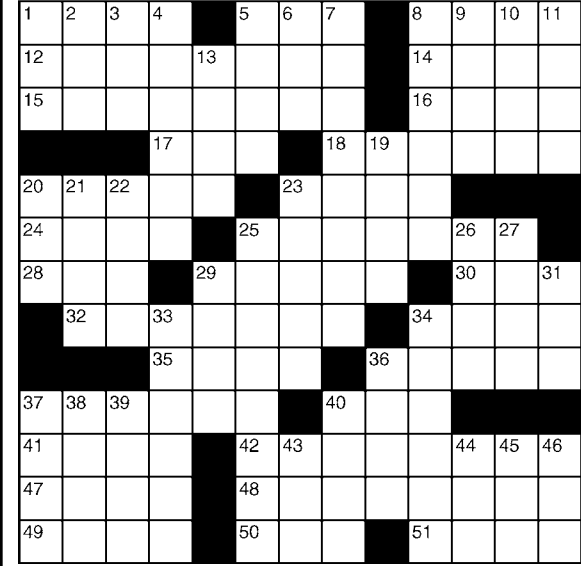
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Pull together all the people whom you feel can contribute to what you want to do. You will be able to shape the ideas you have into something tangible and stabilize your own future. \*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Everyone who knows you is proud of what you have accomplished. Take your time to enjoy a little peace of mind. Love is in the stars so make a gesture to spend more time with someone and you will get the response you want. \*\*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't get angry, get moving. Someone is waiting for you to waffle so he or she can step in and take over. Get your act together and your mind set on making gains. Don't show your weakness. \*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are progressive and a little bit pushy and don't back down when faced with opposition. You are a dreamer but when reality hits, you know what to do.

Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations



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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★ 3/16

3/16

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

3/16

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE MASTERS Solution: 9 letters

A N N G N R E G T R E V O R N  
L I O E O O E T E I D R I B O  
A C G S Z A T V A R N O L D S  
N K O R T A L R L V I P H I L  
O L B U O A R B O I I E C F E  
I A L O S E W A Y H S R W A K  
S U E T V C G D S K Y D P L C  
S S T A D N R N C S B A O D I  
E R S N I O O A T D B Y J O M  
F E U T F I J A I E O G R I W  
O O T F P F L O G G B U O O V  
R U I M A R K F R E D O B L N  
P L A Y E R E S N E A D N L D  
C H O L E I N O N E C M I Z E  
C R E N S H A W E N E G O A T

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Arnold, Birdie, Bobby, Byron, Championship, Clifford, Craig, Crenshaw, Crystal, Double, Doug, Faldo, Fred, Gene, Georgia, Goalby, Goblets, Gold, Golf, Hole In One, Horton, Jack, Mark, Mickelson, Mize, Nicklaus, Phil, Player, Private, Professional, Putting, Round, Salver, Sarazen, Silver, Snead, Tour, Trevor, Vase, Vijay, Watson, Weir, Woods

Last Saturday's Answer: Sinatra

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# Wade gets 50, Heat rally twice to win in 3OT



MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade had a day for the ages. So did the rest of the Miami Heat.

Wade finished with 50 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, Jermaine O'Neal added 28 points and eight rebounds, and the Heat pulled off two huge last-ditch rallies before beating the Utah Jazz in a triple-overtime epic, 140-129 on Saturday afternoon.

The Heat erased a seven-point deficit in the final 55 seconds of regulation to force the extra period, then gave up the first eight points of the first overtime before roaring back again.

The second overtime had five ties, the last coming when Deron Williams hit a jumper with 3.4 seconds left.

But the Jazz wouldn't take the lead again, and Wade sealed it with a pair of foul shots with 44.4 seconds left—tying his career-high in scoring on a day when he passed Alonzo Mourning to become the franchise's leading scorer, and set new bests in field goals made (19) and attempted (39).

Mario Chalmers scored 23 points for Miami, which shot 35-for-39 from the foul line and moved a season-high seven games over .500 (36-29). The Heat also got back within 1 1/2 games of Atlanta for fourth place in the Eastern Conference, and improved to 5-0 in overtime this season.

Williams scored 30 points and had 13 assists for the Jazz, who also got a season-high 25 points from Kyle Korver, along with seven rebounds and six assists. Carlos Boozer finished with 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Jazz.

"We made them work for everything," Wade said. "It was a total team effort."

It was just the third triple-overtime game in Heat history, the first coming Nov. 20, 1992, at Philadelphia, where Miami will play on Sunday to start a stretch of nine road matchups in their next 12 games.

Utah seemed on the cusp of winning twice, first in regulation, then again in the first overtime.

Of course, by the time the game ended, those leads seemed like distant memories.

In regulation, the Jazz led 107-100 with 55 seconds left, before getting outscored 7-0 in the final moments. Chalmers made two free throws, Wade found Udonis Haslem for a dunk on the next Miami possession, and suddenly it was 107-104. O'Neal blocked a dunk by Paul Millsap at the other end, and James Jones made three free throws in the final 16.3 seconds.

Williams had a chance to win it at the buzzer of regulation, but missed a 20-



The Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade gives a thumbs up to the cheering crowd seconds before the end of triple overtime against the Utah Jazz Saturday March 14, 2009 in Miami.

footer over Wade.

They were just getting started.

The first overtime began with Korver and Mehmet Okur each making a 3-pointer from the left corner in the opening minutes, and the Jazz were up 115-107 with 1:45 left. Back came Miami—Wade found O'Neal for a basket inside, scored the next four points himself, and Haslem tied it with two free throws with 22.1 seconds remaining.

The early start—11 a.m. for those watching in Salt Lake City—did nothing to slow the Jazz.

Utah made 12 of its first 18 shots and ran out to a 29-19 lead after the first quarter, in which it outrebounded Miami 14-6 and held the Heat to 38 percent shooting.

Andrei Kirilenko scored the first basket of the second quarter for a 31-19 Utah lead, which was significant: The Jazz hadn't lost any game this season in which they led by more than 10 points.

Slowly, the Heat clawed back.

Wade scored 10 points in the second quarter and Miami got within two points twice, before Ronnie Brewer's score with 2.6 seconds left gave Utah a 55-51 lead at the half.

Wade scored 10 more in the third, the Heat scored 32 points for the second straight quarter, and took an 83-80 lead into the final period.

Little did anyone know at that point, the game was really just beginning.

## Timberwolves 108, Bobcats 100

At Minneapolis, rookie Kevin Love scored 22 points, Rodney Carney and Ryan Gomes added 21 each as Minnesota snapped a four-game skid against Charlotte and handed the Bobcats their third straight loss.

Gerald Wallace had 26 points to lead Charlotte, whose skid follows a team-record, six-game winning streak.

The Bobcats entered the day one-half game behind Chicago and Milwaukee for the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot.

## Bulls 97, Hornets 79

At Chicago, Ben Gordon scored 27 points, John Salmons added 24, and Chicago pounded surging New Orleans despite another strong effort by Chris Paul.

Back home after an 0-3 road trip, the Bulls wasted little time taking it to a Western Conference contender. They went on a 18-0 run that made it 48-24 midway through the second quarter and added another 17-0 burst that bridged the third and fourth quarters, sending the Hornets to just their second loss in 11 games.

Paul scored 29 after back-to-back 30

## Wade becomes Miami's all-time leading scorer

MIAMI (AP)—No surprise here: Dwyane Wade is now, officially, the greatest scorer in Miami Heat history.

Wade passed his good friend and mentor Alonzo Mourning on Saturday to become the leading scorer in franchise history. Wade's dunk with 11:05 left in the third quarter against the Utah Jazz gave him 21 points for the game, and 9,460 in 380 career regular-season appearances.

Mourning, who played for the final time in December 2007, scored 9,459 points in 593 games with the Heat.

Wade received a standing ovation from the crowd when the record was announced during the next stoppage in play, raising his left arm to acknowledge the cheers.

"He's been remarkably efficient, I think, as a scorer," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "And he adds to his game every year. The fact that he's shooting the ball so well from outside has really opened up his game."

The dunk to pass Mourning also gave Wade his 21st straight game of at least 20 points, topping his own franchise record.

Wade came into the day averaging an NBA-best 29.7 points per game this season, 1.1 points ahead of Cleve-

land's LeBron James—a big reason why Miami, which had the worst record in the league last season, started the day with the fifth-best record in the Eastern Conference.

"It's not something I think about," Wade said earlier in the week. "It's about winning right now."

Wade has made a steady climb atop the Heat franchise-record charts in several categories this year.

Earlier this season, Wade passed Glen Rice for the most steals in Miami history. Wade is second in assists, on pace to pass Tim Hardaway (2,867) for the top spot next season. At his current clip, he'll go by Grant Long (14,859) for third place in all-time minutes next month. Wade is even fourth in blocked shots, and could top Shaquille O'Neal (384) for third later this year on that list.

And he should smash the Heat single-season total scoring record as well: He holds that record with 2,040 set in the championship year of 2005-06, and entered Saturday with 1,903 already this season.

"The fact that he's been doing it so efficiently with his field goal percentage—he's shooting over 56 percent since All-Star break—is pretty remarkable," Spoelstra said.

point performances despite the Bulls' best efforts to contain him. Paul hit 13 of 20 shots while dishing out six assists and grabbing six rebounds. But he got little help.

## Spurs 88, Rockets 85

At Houston, Tony Parker scored 28 points, Tim Duncan added 15 points and 12 rebounds and San Antonio beat Houston.

Parker also had eight assists and Michael Finley added 17 points for the Spurs, who came up with two defensive stops in the final 15 seconds to beat the Rockets for the 12th time in the last 17 meetings.

Ron Artest scored 21 points and Yao Ming had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Rockets, who've lost two straight home games after winning the previous 12.

## Nuggets 107, Clippers 94

At Denver, Nene and Renaldo Balkman each had a double-double to help the Nuggets spoil Marcus Camby's return to Denver.

Balkman scored a career-best 22 points to go with his 11 rebounds—his

second straight double-double—and Nene scored 17 points and pulled down 10 boards.

Camby struggled with his shot in his first game at the Pepsi Center since the Nuggets traded him to the Clippers last summer for salary cap relief, scoring 11 points on 3-of-10 shooting and pulling down 11 rebounds.

## Suns 106, Thunder 95

At Phoenix, Leandro Barbosa scored 11 of his 22 points in the final 6 1/2 minutes to help Phoenix rally past Oklahoma City and snap a six-game losing streak, the Suns' longest in four seasons.

Steve Nash added 18 points and eight assists for Phoenix but saw his career-best streak of seven 20-point games come to an end. Grant Hill added 16 points.

Kevin Durant, back after missing seven games with a sprained right ankle, scored 22 and Russell Westbrook 20 for the Thunder, who led by as many as 13 in the first half.

The victory pulled Phoenix to within five games of Dallas for the final playoff spot in the West with 16 to play.

## Browns' Stallworth hits, kills Fla. pedestrian



MIAMI (AP)—Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donnie Stallworth hit and killed a pedestrian with his Bentley on Saturday morning on a busy causeway linking Miami and Miami Beach, police said.

Stallworth was headed toward the beach when he hit Mario Reyes, 59, around 7 a.m., said Miami Beach police spokesman Juan Sanchez. Reyes was taken to a nearby trauma center, where he was pronounced dead about an hour later. He was near a crosswalk but it's not clear if he was crossing legally.

Stallworth, 28, was cooperating and no charges have been filed, San-

chez said. Officers drew blood to test for drugs or alcohol, which is routine. Sanchez said results from the test could take anywhere from three days to three weeks.

Police would not say where Stallworth was coming from or where he was headed, and Sanchez didn't have anymore information about Reyes.

Miami-Dade County property records show Stallworth owns two condos in a building on Biscayne Boulevard in Miami not far from the causeway and another condo in a different building in Miami.

A message seeking comment was left on the voicemail of his agent,

Drew Rosenhaus.

The Browns said in a statement they were aware of what happened.

"We understand the seriousness of this situation, but will not have any further comment at this time as this is an ongoing investigation," the team said.

Stallworth signed a seven-year, \$35 million contract with the Browns as a free agent before last season but hardly played because he was hurt. He was due a \$4.75 million signing bonus Friday.

Stallworth, who previously played for New England, Philadelphia and New Orleans, finished last season with just 17 catches for 170 yards. He was

## Cutler's Denver area house up for sale

DENVER (AP)—The Denver Broncos insist quarterback Jay Cutler isn't on the market. His house, though, is another matter.

Cutler put his 7,516-square-foot, four-bedroom, seven-bath home in suburban Castle Pines up for sale for \$2 million. A listing on real estate Web site REColorado.com shows the agent as Fuller Sotheby's International Realty.

Douglas County property records

show Cutler paid \$1.34 million for the house in August 2006.

Cutler still has a condo in downtown Denver along with his offseason home in Nashville, Tenn..

The Pro Bowl quarterback and new coach Josh McDaniels are in a dispute over attempts to trade him two weeks ago.

The sale was first reported by KMGH-TV and The Denver Post.

slowed all season by a nagging hamstring injury and made just seven starts for the Browns.

Stallworth had his best season with the Saints in 2005, when he made a

career-high 70 receptions for 945 yards and seven touchdowns. He was drafted in the first round (No. 13 overall) by the Saints in 2002. Stallworth played his college ball at Tennessee.



# US embarrassed by Puerto Rico in 7 innings



Puerto Rico's Felipe Lopez (2) is congratulated by his teammates after hitting a two-run home run in the second inning against the United States during the second round of the World Baseball Classic game in Miami, Saturday, March 14, 2009. AP



**MIAMI (AP)**—Jake Peavy lasted only two innings, and in the wake of a Classic blowout, Team USA could soon be gone, too.

Thanks to an embarrassing 11-1 loss to Puerto Rico on Saturday night that was stopped early because of the mercy rule, the Americans are once again on the ropes in round two of the World Baseball Classic.

Carlos Beltran and Felipe Lopez homered, and Puerto Rico rocked Peavy for six runs to send the U.S. team into the loser's bracket. The Americans face the Netherlands in an elimination

game Sunday night.

Javier Vazquez (2-0) allowed one run in five innings for Puerto Rico, which remained unbeaten through four games. Ivan Rodriguez, playing in Miami for the first time since he helped the Marlins win the 2003 World Series, went 3-for-4 with two doubles and an RBI to hike his WBC batting average to .600 (9-for-15).

Adding embarrassment to an ugly U.S. performance, the game ended in the seventh inning because of the tournament's 10-run rule.

The Americans were eager to make amends for a humiliating eighth-place finish in the inaugural WBC three

years ago, and they came into the tournament considered a strong contender for the title. But now they're in danger of repeating their second-round exit in 2006.

Puerto Rico advances to a winner's bracket game Monday against Venezuela, which beat the Dutch 3-1 in the first game Saturday.

Manager Davey Johnson unexpectedly rejoined Team USA and watched with a grimace as the Americans quickly fell behind. He had been scheduled to miss the game for the wedding of his stepson in St. Petersburg, with bench coach Barry Larkin filling in as interim manager.

## Pedroia out of WBC with strained muscle

**MIAMI (AP)**—Dustin Pedroia will miss the rest of the World Baseball Classic because of a strained muscle on his left side, but the injury isn't considered serious.

The reigning AL MVP was replaced on Team USA's roster by second baseman Brian Roberts of the Baltimore Orioles.

Pedroia was scratched from the lineup before Saturday night's 11-1 loss to Puerto Rico. He said he first noticed the injury while hitting during a workout Friday, and it worsened when he hit in the batting cage Saturday.

"Obviously, I'm upset," the Boston second baseman said. "Today I felt shooting pain, so that was a sign to stop. Hopefully, it's nothing serious. I'm not concerned about the season. I'll definitely be ready for the season."

Pedroia left the WBC and was examined by Red Sox medical director Dr. Tom Gill on Sunday night in Fort Myers, where the team trains. Pedroia was diagnosed with a minor strain in his lower left abdominal area.

"While he will be held out from activity for a couple of days, it is not expected that he will miss significant time," the team said in a statement. "Pedroia will rejoin Red Sox spring training camp on Sunday and is no longer participating in the World Baseball Classic."

Pedroia, who was replaced in the U.S. lineup Saturday by Mark DeRosa, said playing meaningful games so early in March might have contributed to the injury.

"I've never had anything like this," he said. "Maybe I pushed it a little bit too hard too fast."

The crowd of 30,595 was evenly divided in its support, but Puerto Rico fans had a lot more to cheer about. Derek Jeter, Chipper Jones and Kevin Youklis went a combined 0-for-9 batting 2-3-4 for Team USA, and Mark DeRosa went 0-for-3 with two strikeouts while stranding five runners.

DeRosa was a late fill-in for reigning AL MVP Dustin Pedroia, placed on the disabled list for the second round Saturday because of a strained muscle on his left side.

With the score 7-1, Beltran homered off Matt Thornton to start the seventh. Lopez doubled home a run and Mike Aviles hit a two-out, two-run single to end the game. Puerto Rico poured out of the dugout as fans armed with thundersticks and flags let out one final roar.

From the outset, Peavy turned the

game into international batting practice. He gave up singles to three of the first four hitters he faced, and Puerto Rico scored twice in the first. Carlos Delgado singled home the first run, and Alex Rios followed with a sacrifice fly.

Things got worse in the second for Peavy (0-1). He gave up a leadoff walk and then Lopez's homer. Following another walk, Ramon Vazquez doubled, Beltran drove in a run with an infield single and Delgado delivered an RBI groundout.

While Peavy gave up six hits and two walks, Vazquez allowed only one baserunner until David Wright led off the fifth with a single. Adam Dunn also singled, and after a forceout, Brian McCann doubled home a run to make it 6-1.

Vazquez escaped further damage by retiring DeRosa and Shane Victorino.



## DORAL, Fla.

**(AP)**—Phil Mickelson learned a little about Nick Watney during his trips to Las Vegas in the offseason while working with Butch Harmon, the swing coach for both of them.

He got to know Watney a lot better Saturday in the CA Championship and was even more impressed.

Watney overcame a two-shot deficit with three straight birdies early in the third round and had three strong par saves on the back nine for a 5-under 67. Mickelson answered with three straight birdies late in the afternoon during a splendid display of driving and irons and shot 69. They wound up tied for the lead at Doral.

Even though Mickelson longed for another duel with Tiger Woods, he realizes he still has his hands full with Watney.

"There's really not any weaknesses in his game," Mickelson said. "He's already won this year and played tough down the stretch in that win, and he's a tough competitor."

They were at 16-under 200, four shots clear of anyone else.

Watney, who birdied two his last three holes to win at Torrey Pines last month, ended his streak of bogey-free golf on the Blue Monster after 46 holes and still has made only one in the tournament.

"I just wanted to go out there today and really get into my round and not

# Mickelson, Watney tied for WGC lead



Nick Watney, left, and Phil Mickelson shake hands after finishing the 18th hole after the third round at the CA Championship golf tournament Saturday March 14, 2009, in Doral, Fla. AP

worry too much about the scoreboard or playing against Phil directly," Watney said. "So I'm pleased with the way I handled it."

Watney has not played in a final group before so many fans, but he has seen what it is like. He was a rookie in 2005 when Doral resembled a rock concert with Woods and Mickelson in the last group, and Woods rallying to win.

"I would love to have that opportunity," Watney said. "Maybe I'll get that

shot tomorrow."

Woods won't be part of the equation.

In his first stroke-play event since winning the U.S. Open in June a week before knee surgery, Woods was thrilled with how he hit the ball, disgusted with how he putted. He managed only a 68 and was nine shots behind.

"The best I've hit it in a long time," Woods said. "Granted, I haven't played in a long time, but still."

Mickelson, the best player to have

never won a World Golf Championship, is not ready to consider Sunday another duel at Doral. Jeev Milkha Singh (68) and Camilo Villegas (69) were at 12-under 204, while the group another shot behind included former Doral winner Jim Furyk (69), Kenny Perry (71) and Alvaro Quiros (69), a big hitter from Spain.

"Nick and I need to play well to separate ourselves from the rest of the field," Mickelson said.

Lefty worried he might fall behind when he made the turn in only 35 on another good day for scoring. But he hit his stride, going eight consecutive holes with birdie putts inside 12 feet. He converted only three of them.

The easiest came at the par-3 13th, when Mickelson hit 5-iron to the green and watched it roll toward the cup. The glare kept him from seeing the ball bounce lightly off the middle of the pin and stop a foot away, but the wild cheer filled him in.

"I thought after the first bounce it was going to be pretty good," he said.

Watney made a terrific par save from an awkward stance in the bunker on the 13th, and he made another solid bunker save on the par-3 15th when Mickelson hit his tee shot to 6 feet. It looked as though Lefty would go three shots ahead until he missed the putt, and Watney caught him two holes later—his birdie on the 16th,

Mickelson's one wild drive on the 17th leading to bogey.

Watney finished with another solid par save after an approach flirted with the water on the 18th. From deep rough, he popped it out to 3 feet and stayed tied for the lead when Mickelson missed a 15-foot birdie.

Rory McIlroy, the 19-year-old from Northern Ireland who is down to his last week with a chance at becoming the youngest winner in PGA Tour history, was in the mix until struggling from the rough and making three bogeys over his last five holes.

He was at 10-under 206, six shots behind.

"It looks like it's going to be a bit of a two-horse race," McIlroy said. "But if I can go out and shoot in the mid-60s and get myself as high up the leaderboard as possible, then it will have been another good week."

Woods feels he's making progress, too.


It was his best round since his return to competition, at least until he got on the green. He missed three putts inside 10 feet, and his final birdie came on the 16th when he holed out from a back bunker.

But it was the finish that lifted his mood.

From the edge of the water, with the ball above his feet and the wind in his face, Woods hit a sweeping draw with a 3-iron from 207 yards away that caught the ridge and rolled just past the cup, settling 12 feet away.



# MVA invites sports fishermen to Mahi Derby

The Saipan Fishermen's Association is pleased to announce that the 5th Annual Miller Lite Mahi Fishing Derby will be taking to the high seas in the Northern Mariana Islands on April 4 at Smiling Cove Marina from 6am to 5pm.

The pre-registration and orientation for the trolling event will be on April 3 at the marina from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. SFA officials will provide a briefing on the derby Rules and Regulations.

The one-day event is open to

all interested individuals. The derby will consist of five categories—first, second, third, fourth, and fifth places. The entry fee is \$100 for three anglers, with an additional \$25 per angler.

Spectators are invited to see the day's catch as fishermen begin returning to Smiling Cove Marina at approximately 4pm on derby day. The awards banquet will take place after the derby at the marina weigh station from 6pm to 9pm.

Registration forms are available at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose near Microl Corp., Fishing

Tackle in Susupe, or Best Fishing in Garapan.

For more information about the event or an electronic registration form, contact Frank Tudela at MVA at 664-3200, or via e-mail at ftudela@my-marianas.com.

Last year, Capt. Rolly Trajeco and two crewmen of *Sea Craft Four* won the 4th Annual Mahi-Mahi Fishing Derby after reeling in a 24.3-lb. mahi-mahi caught in Tinian waters.

Trajeco said he, Annie Legaspi, and Liody Bukid grappled with the monster mahi for about 15 minutes before

heading back to Smiling Cove Marina a mere four hours after setting sail, confident that the 24-pounder they caught was the day's prize catch.

Trajeco said he was so confident with the weight of their mahi-mahi that they immediately pulled anchor and headed back to Saipan. They had their catch registered and weighed in a couple of hours before lunchtime.

The *Sea Craft* pilot's prediction turned out right, as Trajeco and company came away with the \$1,500 first place purse after barely beating out runner-up

boat *Tweety Bird* which reeled in a mahi-mahi that tipped the scales at 24.25 lbs.

Captain Eric David and his *Tweety Bird* crewmen, composed of Gonzalo Pangelinan and Tak Nakazoto, pocketed \$1,000 for their effort.


Tony Maestro and Manding Legaspi wound up third this time after *DJ Fish Mobile* caught a 22.35-lb. mahi-mahi. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
A proud participant shows off his catch at the 4th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby in Saipan. This year's derby will be held on April 4 at Smiling Cove Marina.

## Second Leapfrog race March 21 at Paupau

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation's second Leapfrog training exercise, a modified bike-and-run racing event, is set this Saturday, March 21, at Paupau Beach.

Registration will start at 6:30am and the race will start at 7am, according to coordinator Joshua Berger.

Berger estimates that participants will take about 60-80 minutes to finish the course.

"For those of you who missed

the first Leapfrog last September, you need two people, one bike, and two pair of running shoes. You share the bike. One of you runs while the other bikes, and then you switch. This time there will be no pre-arranged drop points for the bike—it is up to you to develop your own strategy," said Berger.

There will be no swim in this event.

Competitors can share either a mountain or road bike for the tiring seven-mile distance from the Paupau Beach to Banzai Cliff Memorial Park and back.

The race will be free for any member of the NMITF, while

non-members will be charged \$5.

"We will provide the organization, traffic control and drinks. No prizes nor timing. This is a training exercise for the upcoming XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman," Berger said.

NMITF is looking for a couple of volunteers, especially someone to do traffic control at the intersection of the road coming out from the Paupau Beach.

The tandem of Butch Sublemente and Ronald Villafria won the first Leapfrog race, which was a longer distance of 8.5 miles. They clocked in at 47.23 and 47.56, respectively.

The event was called Leapfrog because it was a two-person team using one bicycle, each alternating the bike and run leg portion of the race. Everyone starts the race at the same time.

From the starting point, one teammate rides ahead and leaves the bike at a designated exchange point and begins running.

One runs to the bike and then rides past or leapfrogs his or her partner and drops the bike at the next exchange point.

The process was repeated and the team that completed the course, in this case Sublemente and Villafria, won the race.

## CNMI

From Page 28

If Guam, which won its first two games, wins against Macau, the hosts rule the tournament and advances to the semifinal round.

The hosts won over Mongolia on Wednesday, 1-0, with forward Christopher Mendiola scoring in the ninth minute. It was a historic feat for Guam,

as it was its first time to win against a FIFA-ranked team since joining the world governing association of football, 13 years ago. Mongolia is ranked 192 in the world.

In the second game, Guam drew one goal each from Ian Mariano and Joshua Borja to thwart the hard-fighting CNMI strikers.

Pending the results of yesterday's second game, Guam has earned six points after

two wins, Mongolia also had six points on a 2-1 record, while Macau had a 1-1 slate for three points.

If Macau wins, there will be a three-way tie with Macau, Guam, and Mongolia all finishing with six points. In this case, the winner will be decided by goal difference in all matches. If there is still a tie, the team with the most goals scored in all three matches will be declared winner.

The winner of the preliminary competition will travel to Tainan, Taiwan this August to play against Chinese-Taipei, China, and Hong Kong in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Women's National Team challenged its counterpart from Guam during the 2nd Annual Marianas Football Cup last Saturday with the hosts holding their ground en route to an 8-0 demolition of the visitors.

## TWO

From Page 28

Making it to the Top 10 were IT&E's Wowie Abuel (40), Docomo's Joe Villacrusis (39), Quichocho's Bonbon Cadagat (36), Docomo's David Palacios 935), Diamond's Elmer Es-

drelon (30), the Ol'Aces' Elias Rangamar (28), and Quichocho's Jun Pantaleon (28).

Ol'Aces gunner Freddie Pelisamen and Joemary Tumaquip of the CNMI Nationals are still on top of the scoring and steals categories, respectively.

In 10 games, Pelisamen scored 324 points to keep his

lead against second placer Cadagat (228). In third place is the Nationals' Pete Iguel (221), followed by Bernardo (174), the Runnin' Rebels' Jesus Iguel (156) and Jose Tumaquip (155), Quichocho's Sonny Lerio (150), Estolas (147), the National's Marvin Rabauliman (142), and Esdrelon (141).

Jomary has recorded 44 steals, five more than Jesus Iguel's 39. In third place is the Runnin' Rebels' Denard Norita (35), followed by Pete Iguel (33), Quichocho's Leo Itaas (31), Rabauliman (29), Esdrelon (27), White (24), Jose Tumaquip (24), and IT&E's Peter Mendiola (22).

## SHELL

From Page 28

Nakamura (6-for 11 for .545) and Twins' Darion Jones (7-for-13, .538).

The other players in the Top 13 are Justin Santos of Little Lions (.533), Mathew Sablan of JPO Enforcers (.500), Logan Martin of Team Shell (.500), Raymond Saralu of Hustlers (.500), Frankie Lieto of Tanapag Braves (.500), Jonathan Villagomez of the Dragons (.500), Ian

Norita of Little Falcons (.500), Jonathan Cabrera of the Dragons (.462) and Roke Tenorio of Twins (.455).

Santos is leading in runs scored with 10 as he also joins 10 players with two doubles each that includes Khoby Kaipat (Hustlers), Lizama Jr., Nakamura, Marciliano Castro (A's), Cabrera, Mathew Sablan, Paul Celis (Shell), Phillip Sablan and Logan Martin.

In triples, six players have two each—Celis, Villagomez, Saralu, M.J. Sakisat (Twins),

Caleb Takao (Survivors), and Lizama Jr.

Jonathan Cabrera posted three homeruns for the Dragons, Lizama made two, and the Twins' Alex Litulumar has one.

Lizama is the current leader in RBIs with 10, while Cabrera recoded seven so far.

In pitching, Ol'Aces' Jeremy Lizama is on top with an ERA of 0.36 with one error after 16.2 innings. Cabrera has 0.55 with an error in 11 innings.

Rounding out the Top 10 are Kaipat (0.64), Saralu (0.67), Liza-

ma (0.72), Takao (1.00), Keene Guerrero of Red Sox (1.57), M.J. Aldan of Little Falcons (1.76), Justin Reyes of the Enforcers (2.43) and Sakisat (4.07).

Jeremy Lizama piled 38 strikeouts to stay on top of the list, Guerrero knocked down 28, and Cabrera is running third with 26.

The others in the list are Reyes (25), Aldan (22), Nathan Camacho of the Dragons (20), Takao (19), Lizama Jr. (18), Sakisat (14), Perry Celis of Shell (13), and Jones (13).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
NBA STANDINGS									
EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
x-Boston	50	16	.758	—					
Philadelphia	32	31	.508	16	1/2				
New Jersey	28	37	.431	21	1/2				
New York	28	37	.431	21	1/2				
Toronto	23	43	.348	27					
Central Division									
y-Cleveland	52	13	.800	—					
Detroit	33	31	.516	18	1/2				
Chicago	30	37	.448	23					
Milwaukee	30	38	.441	23	12				
Indiana	28	39	.418	25					
Southeast Division									
x-Orlando	48	17	.738	—					
Atlanta	38	28	.576	10	1/2				
Miami	36	29	.554	12					
Charlotte	28	38	.424	20	1/2				
Washington	15	51	.227	33	1/2				
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Southwest Division									
San Antonio	44	21	.677	—					
Houston	43	25	.632	2	1/2				
New Orleans	41	24	.631	3					
Dallas	40	26	.606	4	1/2				
Memphis	16	48	.250	27	1/2				
Northwest Division									
Portland	41	24	.631	—					
Denver	42	25	.627	—					
Utah	41	25	.621	1/2					
Minnesota	20	46	.303	21	1/2				
Oklahoma City	18	48	.273	23	1/2				
Pacific Division									
y-LA Lakers	52	13	.800	—					
Phoenix	35	31	.530	17	1/2				
Golden State	23	42	.354	29					
LA Clippers	15	50	.231	37					
Sacramento	14	51	.215	38.0					
Yesterday's Game									
Miami 140, Utah 129									
Minnesota 108, Charlotte 100									
Chicago 97, New Orleans 79									
San Antonio 88, Houston									
Denver 107, LA Clippers 94									
Phoenix 106, Oklahoma City									
WGC-CA CHAMPIONSHIP									
THIRD ROUND									
Phil Mickelson	65	66	69	200					
Nick Watney	66	67	67	200					
Jeev Milkha Singh	65	71	68	204					
Camilo Villegas	67	68	69	204					
Charley Hoffman	68	70	67	205					
Soren Kjeldsen	70	66	69	205					
Jim Furyk	68	68	69	205					
Alvaro Quiros	72	64	69	205					
Kenny Perry	70	64	71	205					
Justin Leonard	69	69	68	206					
Rod Pampling	66	69	71	206					
Rory McIlroy	68	66	72	206					
Soren Hansen	74	69	64	207					
James Kingston	66	74	67	207					
Luke Donald	69	70	68	207					
Dustin Johnson	70	66	71	207					
Prayad Marksaeng	65	70	72	207					
Padraig Harrington	66	71	71	208					
Tiger Woods	71	70	68	209					
Ernie Els	70	71	68	209					
Steve Stricker	69	70	70	209					
Briny Baird	70	68	71	209					
Oliver Wilson	67	70	72	209					
Paul Casey	71	66	72	209					
Louis Oosthuizen	67	69	73	209					
Ian Poulter	69	67	73	209					
Ryuji Imada	70	71	69	210					
Mike Weir	71	69	70	210					
Pat Perez	70	68	72	210					
Stuart Appleby	71	71	69	211					
Justin Rose	73	70	68	211					
Tim Clark	71	71	69	211					
Davis Love III	70	71	70	211					
Martin Kaymer	73	68	70	211					
Ben Curtis	71	69	71	211					
Thomas Aiken	74	66	71	211					
Sean O'Hair	67	70	74	211					
Mark Brown	73	71	68	212					
Sergio Garcia	72	72	68	212					
Carl Pettersson	74	69	69	212					
Chad Campbell	72	70	70	212					
Geoff Ogilvy	73	69	70	212					
Vijay Singh	69	72	71	212					
Ross Fisher	71	69	72	212					
Anthony Kim	71	69	72	212					
Garth Mulroy	70	70	72	212					
Robert Allenby	69	71	72	212					
Shingo Katayama	70	70	72	212					
Ken Duke	71	75	67	213					
Hunter Mahan	71	74	68	213					
Richard Finch	72	72	69	213					
Stephen Ames	72	70	71	213					
Robert Karlsson	71	70	72	213					
D.J. Trahan	77	71	66	214					
Zach Johnson	70	72	72	214					
Retief Goosen	65	76	73	214					
Stewart Cink	73	73	69	215					
Wen-Tang Lin	75	70	70	215					
Henrik Stenson	69	73	73	215					
Andres Romero	67	71	77	215					
Darren Clarke	74	71	71	216					
Peter Hanson	70	74	72	216					
Y.E. Yang	73	70	73	216					
Graeme McDowell	73	71	70	217					
Bubba Watson	72	74	74	217					
Rory Sabbatini	69	74	74	217					
Miguel Angel Jimenez	69	72	76	217					
Kevin Sutherland	74	76	68	218					
John Rollins	76	71	71	218					
K.J. Choi	73	73	72	218					
Richard Sterne	70	76	72	218					
Adam Scott	71	76	72	219					
Dudley Hart	71	75	73	219					
Boo Weekley	69	75	75	219					
Lee Westwood	71	71	78	220					
Trevor Immelman	74	76	72	222					
Pablo Larrazabal	76	71	75	222					
Billy Mayfair	75	72	75	222					
Azuma Yano	77	71	76	224					
Aaron Baddeley	75	69	34						

By The Associated Press



# The Week in Sports

## Beach volleyball fever hits Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Undoubtedly, the biggest show on the island last week was the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival, which brought hundreds of beach volleyball fans and even non-enthusiasts of the sport, too, on the sand courts of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Fans and non-fans alike were treated to a show by Beijing Olympics gold medalist Phil Dalhausser, fellow U.S. pros Paul Baxter, Jennifer Snyder, and Jenelle Koester, their counterparts from Korea and Japan, local players, and several off-island participants.

In the end, Baxter, who won last year with Saipan's Randy Steele as his teammate, ruled the men's division, again, with new partner Hugo Dooner.

Baxter and Dooner defeated the pair of Dalhausser and Saipan's Tyce Mister in the finals, 21-15.

The women's division also had repeat champions in Yoko Miki and Chie Iwana, who topped the Italian tandem of Daniela Gitteli and Federica Tonon, 21-18.

Over at the northern part of the island at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi, five swim clubs competed in 150 events in the 2009 Saipan Swim Club International Invitational Meet.

After two days of plunging into the pool, Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan emerged as overall winner, earning 962 points. In second place was host and last year's overall champion SSC, which earned 747 points. Tarakito Swim Club of Guam placed third with 293 points, followed by Manukai Swim Club of Guam (225), Guam Typhoon (154), and the SSC Masters (45).

In the same meet, two Tsunami Saipan swimmers set records in their respective age groups.

Kensuke Kimura competed in the open division, but his time of 5:35.70 seconds in the 400m individual medley shattered the boys' 11-12 age group record. He broke the five-year mark of previous record-holder Rezne Wong, who timed in at 5:51.18 on April 4, 2004.

Kaito Yanai also entered the record books after setting a mark in the boys' 9-10 age group 100m butterfly event. The Garapan Elementary School student timed in at 1:28.68, eclipsing the 16-year record of Dean Palacios (1:28.89/March 12, 1993).

After the Invitational, Guam and Saipan swimmers participated in the 31st Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim at World Resort Saipan.

Rezne Wong capped his last age group ocean swim with a win in the longest course of the day.

Wong timed in at 33 minutes, 42 seconds in the 2,500-meter race, beating five other participants in the boys' 15 to 19 age group, including Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan teammate Cooper Graf (36:52).

Other top finishers in various age groups were Sarah Klassen, Ryosei Toda, Angel Tan, Maxi Braig, Victoria Chentsova, Kensuke Kimura, Rione Emma, Benji Schulte, Keanna Villagomez, David Palacios, Mamiko Berger, Vener Urena, Suzy Kindel, Lewie Tenorio, Kieran Daly, Monica Yamaguchi, Manny Sitchon, and Florian Braig.

While beach volleyball players and swimmers took the local center stage, the CNMI Men's Football Team was on a mission in Guam.

The Commonwealth strikers participated in the East Asian Football Championship 2010 Preliminary Competition at the Leo Palace Resort.

The CNMI bet played Macau Wednesday with the former scoring the first goal of the tournament before losing to the latter, 1-6. Joe Miller scored in the fifth minute of the first half on an assist from Peter Houk, stunning the favored Macau.

The CNMI played Guam on the second day of the tournament last Friday with team captain Peter Loken scoring in the second half in the Commonwealth's 1-2 loss.

The CNMI strikers were playing Mongolia in their last game yesterday.

The team to earn the most points after three games in the preliminary competition will advance to the semifinal round, which will be played in Taiwan in August this year.

Meanwhile, ongoing leagues and tournaments on Saipan went ahead as scheduled, keeping pace with crowd-drawing events the island hosted last week.

Competitions in the Saipan Little League Baseball and Saipan Major League are heating up, while the Budweiser caging and slow-pitch leagues are heading to their last few games in the regular season.



From left, Rezne Wong, Kai Staal, and Michael Moran at the starting block for the 200m freestyle race during last week's 2009 SSC International Invitational Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.



Participants in the 2500m race plunge into the water during the 31st SSC Ocean Swim at Saipan World Resort.



A Lions pitcher delivers a pitch in the Majors division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



The CNMI's Joe Miller, right, chases the ball during their game against Guam in the East Asian Football Championship 2010 Preliminary Competition at the Leo Palace Resort in Guam Friday.



Karen Klassen hugs daughter Sarah after the latter finishes the 600m race in the 31st SSC Ocean Swim at World Resort Saipan.



The CNMI's David Cabrera Duenas, right, slides to kick the ball against a Macau player during the opening game in the East Asian Football Championship 2010 Preliminary Competition Wednesday at the Leo Palace Resort in Guam Friday.



Spectators watch a Japanese pro makes a kill during an exhibition game against Koreans in the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival last week on the PIC sand court.



U.S. pro Paul Baxter is blocked by a Korean player during their exhibition game in the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival last week on the PIC sand court. Looking on is Baxter's teammate and Beijing Games Olympic gold medalist Phil Dalhausser.



The CNMI Nationals' Keoni Chariton, right, is guarded by Quichocho's Jun Pantaleon during their game in the Budweiser caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.





## Wade gets 50, Heat rally twice to win in 3OT

Wade finished with 50 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, Jermaine O'Neal added 28 points and eight rebounds, and the Heat pulled off two huge last-ditch rallies before beating the Utah Jazz in a triple-overtime epic, 140-29 on Saturday afternoon. **24**

# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Beach volleyball fever hits Saipan

Undoubtedly, the biggest show on the island last week was the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival, which brought hundreds of beach volleyball fans and even non-enthusiasts of the sport. **27**



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# CNMI keeps 'scoring streak' in Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Nick Swaim saved the CNMI from being shut-out in its last game in the Asian Football Championships 2010 Preliminary Competition, connecting on a penalty kick in a 1-4 loss to Mongolia yesterday at the Leo Palace Resort in Guam.

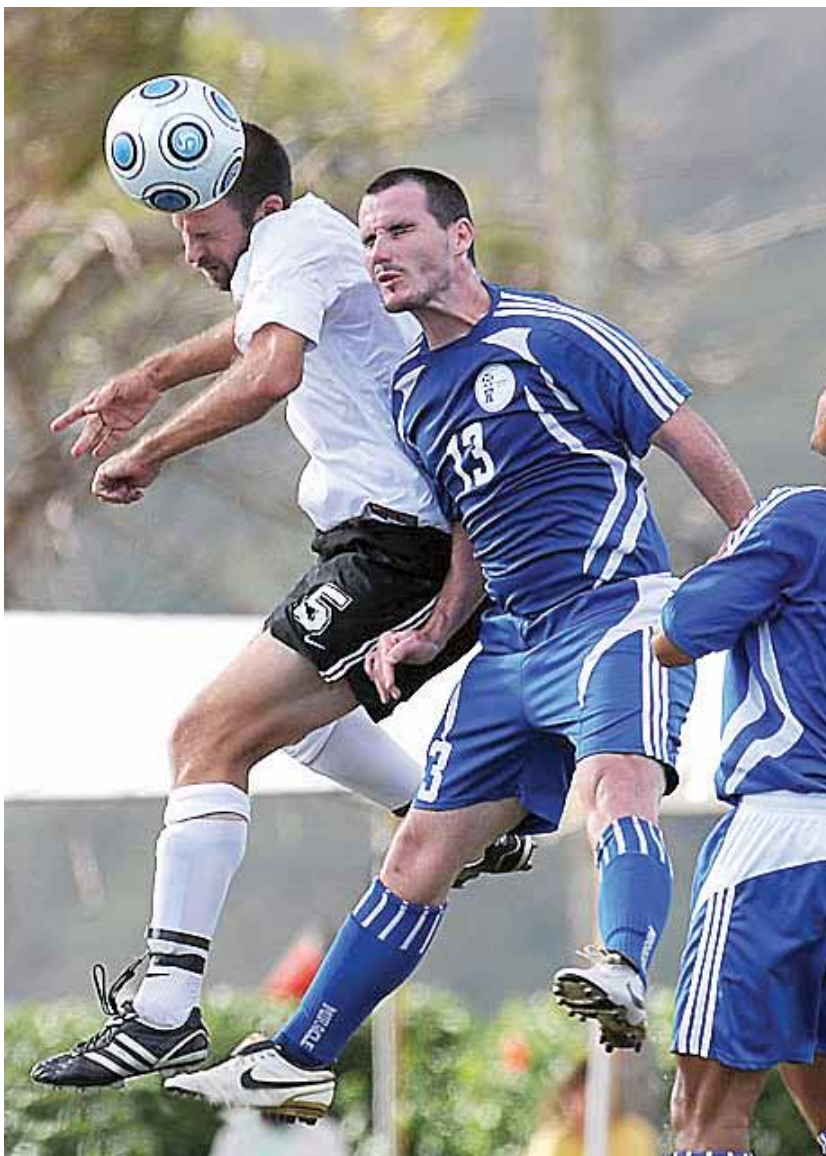
Swaim's penalty shot came in the 75th minute, allowing the CNMI to have a sort of "streak" as it scored in all three games in the EAFF qualifier.

In their 1-6 debut loss to Macau Wednesday, Joe Miller nailed the first goal of the game, while team captain Peter Loken also scored in the CNMI strikers' 1-2 loss to Guam Friday.

The CNMI Team, which is also composed of Evan Hunsberger, Yoshi Gabaldon, David Duenas, Brad Ruszala, Steve McKagan, Ben Wood, Gilmark Reusora, Jeffrey Cloud, Peter Houk, Dale Roberts, Jason Schroeder, Lucas Knecht, Bradley Brostrom, Daniel Macario, Jose Duenas, Chris Nelson, and Norman Camacho, is returning to Saipan this morning. Also on the team are coach Sugao Kambe, equipment manager John Ravell, and team manager Ken Imaya.

The CNMI-Mongolia tiff was played in the first game, while Guam was battling Macau in an important second match. Results of the second game were unavailable at press time.

See CNMI on Page 26



The CNMI's Nick Swaim goes for a header during their game against Guam in the East Asian Football Championship 2010 Preliminary Competition at the Leo Palace Resort in Guam Friday.

## Two take lead in Bud Cup statistical race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The ongoing 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League has two new leaders in the statistical race.

The Runnin' Rebels' Syl Teregeyo dislodged Ol'Aces' Gabriel White from the top spot in the rebounds department with the former collaring 94 boards in 10 games. White dropped to fourth with his 77.

In second place is IT&E's Kae Bernardo with 81, while Docomo's Christopher Paul is in third with 78. Completing the Top 5 was Docomo's Kelvin Fital (75), while rounding off the Top 10 were the Runnin' Rebels' Ben Lisua (66), Quichocho's Larry Palero (63), Docomo's James Villacrusis (58), IT&E's Gyles Ruloked (56), and Quichocho's Bart Demapan (54).

The assists department also has a new leader in IT&E's Andres "Jun" Estolas Jr., who had 50 feeds to edge former leader Jose Tumaquip (47) of the Runnin' Rebels. Jose dropped to third, as his younger brother, Jomary, climbed to second with 49 assists.

See TWO on Page 26



The Runnin' Rebels' Syl Teregeyo, seen attempting a reverse layup against Docomo's Joe Villacrusis (24), leads the Budweiser caging in rebounds.

## Shell's Sablan tops Majors in batting

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
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REPORTER



Team Shell's Phillip Sablan is currently leading the batting category in the Major Division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball.

Sablan currently has gone 7-for-10 at bat for an average of .700, based on nine or more at-bats as of March 8.

But Team Shell is carrying a 2-2 win-loss record in the 14-team field division after losing their last two games to As Matuis Twins, 5-11, on Feb. 28 and at the hands of the Kagman Little Lions, 8-11, on March 8.

Shell actually won its first two assignments, 11-8 over Century Athletics last Feb. 16 and 11-1 against IT&E last Feb. 22.

Roy Tudela of Tanapag Braves is running second with an average of .667 after hitting 6-for-9, while Jets' Jose Lizama Jr. has gone 8-for-13 for a .615 average, good for third.

Completing the Top 5 are Jets' Franko

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Phillip Sablan is shown here in practice before Team Shell's cancelled match against the Tanapag Braves Saturday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



## CNMI netters to train in Fiji

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Thea Minor and another CNMI junior tennis player will be leaving for Lautoka Fiji this summer to attend training sessions at the Oceania Tennis Federation's Regional Training Centre.

CNMI coach Jeff Race said the Commonwealth is given two slots at the RTC and Minor is assured of a spot after her impressive performance in last year's Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji and in various tournaments in the region.

Minor made it to the semifinals of the POJC and also competed in tournaments in New Caledonia and New Zealand last year.

Race said Rafael Jones and Christian Miller will be contesting the remaining slot, as they are the top two CNMI players in the boys' 14-and-under age group.

"I hope Thea and whoever gets the last slot will make the most of their stay at the RTC. The training sessions there will be very helpful in the development of their skills," Race said.

Thea and either Jones or Miller will undergo the same training that boys' 18-and-under player Ji Hoon Heo and former junior netter Mayuko Arriola went

through, a few years back. Their training sessions will only last for weeks, as the CNMI netters will be staying at the facility on a non-full time basis.

The facility in Fiji is one of the three RTCs that the International Tennis Federation operates. The two others are located in Pretoria, South Africa under director Dermot Sweeney and in Dakar, Senegal. The facility in Senegal—the ITF/CAT Francophone Training Centre—is the newest RTC and was opened in 2007.

ITF Development Officer Pacific Oceania Dan O'Connell oversees the operations of the RTC in Fiji.

Players who are in the facility in Fiji on a full time basis are accommodated in the ITF House, attend

school, and participate in a full week's training program, incorporating two daily on-court sessions and regular fitness training sessions. Talor Wain is head coach and is assisted by Fiji national coach Naga Reddy and David Detudamo. Players attending classes in Fiji also have the opportunity to be selected for ITF regional junior teams, which compete in high level events in Australia and New Zealand.

Several players who competed against CNMI bets in last year's POJC are full time RTC students.

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Minor